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WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION OF GEORGIA

MISS GAY B. SHEPPERSON,
Administrator.

MILTON W. BLANTON, Coordinator of
Research and Statistical Projects.

GEORGIA'S BLIND

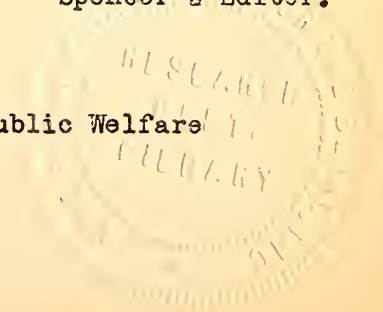
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Thomas W. Anderson,
Project Supervisor.

Albert S. Jenkins,
Sponsor's Editor.

Georgia Survey of the Blind
Sponsored by the Georgia State Department of Public Welfare



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FOREWORD

This report is submitted with the hope that it will be of value to the Georgia State Department of Public Welfare and other interested agencies in planning and formulating a coordinated program for the blind in Georgia.

The survey was made under the supervision of Thomas W. Anderson, April, 1938, to September, 1938, under the general direction of Milton W. Blanton, Coordinator of Research and Statistical Projects.

Acknowledgment is due the State Board of Health; the State Department of Education, its public schools and Vocational Rehabilitation Division; the Lions Clubs of Georgia; the Parent Teacher Associations; and the Federated Women's Clubs throughout the State. Acknowledgment is also made to the many county survey committees, the Post Office Department and its Rural Carriers.

The newspapers of Georgia cooperated splendidly in donating free space in their columns for the soliciting of information regarding blind persons not already known.

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Chapter I INTRODUCTION

In April, 1938, after having been in operation only nine months, the State Department of Public Welfare was giving direct assistance to 986 blind persons. The Department was justly proud of its record, yet it was not satisfied; too little was known about the blind. There were no records available that would show even the approximate number of blind persons in Georgia; where they lived; their employment problems; their conditions of health; or their educational status. Confronted with these problems, the Department applied to the Works Progress Administration of Georgia for a survey.

The immediate objective of the survey was a complete census of all the blind in Georgia, regardless of their economic status. It was to include age, race, sex, and as much additional information as practicable. One of the most important findings was to be the number of blind persons who had never had their eyes examined by licensed ophthalmologists.

At the beginning of the Survey in April, 1938, the number of blind persons was estimated at from 2,500 to 7,500. The State Department of Public Welfare, as already stated, was giving assistance to 986 and had 926 applications pending. In addition, some 119 were enrolled in the Academy for the Blind in Macon. Also the names of about 200 blind persons not known to the Department were obtained from the Kreigshaber Lighthouse Memorial Library, thus making the known number at the beginning of the Survey 2,200.

At this point it is well to review briefly the provisions, both public and private, for the blind. Perhaps the oldest of these is the Academy for the Blind, which was organized as a private institution for indigent blind people

by a group of Macon citizens in 1851. At first only adults were admitted but later the doors were opened to children.

In 1852 the Legislature granted the Academy a charter which provided for a self perpetuating board of seven trustees. This board continued to operate the institution until 1932, when its duties were assumed by the State Board of Control of Eleemosynary Institutions.

As children were admitted more and more to the institution and it was found that they could be educated, the Legislature made appropriations for its maintenance, and gradually its principal purpose became that of educating blind children, and adults were no longer received. At present its aims are entirely educational.

The Academy, which is now maintained by the State Department of Public Welfare, offers education to both white and Negro blind children between the ages of seven and 21 years. The Negro school is very old and not adapted for school use, while the buildings for the white school are in fair condition. The enrollment for the 1938 spring term was as follows: White School, 56 males, 32 females, total, 88; Negro School, 16 males, 21 females, total, 37; total for both schools, 125.

The Vocational Rehabilitation Division of the State Department of Education reports the expenditure of considerable sums during the past twenty years on a large number of blind persons but feels that it has not been successful in rehabilitating more than five per cent of the cases served. In this respect, Georgia is not an exception. It has been found that this condition prevails in most of the Southern States.

The Division has trained a number of blind persons in mattress making, chair caning, uphol-

stering, etc., through the Ways and Means for the blind in Augusta. However, after they learned the trade and set up shops only a few became self-supporting. In a few instances where the client possessed a better than average education and individual initiative, the Division was successful in rehabilitating them through formal college training.

The Kreigshaber Lighthouse Memorial Library, a branch of the Atlanta Carnegie Library, distributes Braille books^① and talking books^② to the blind. Prior to July, 1936, this distribution was carried on by the State Library. In 1936, there were only 55 registered readers; to date there are approximately 800. The Memorial has some 425 talking machines, about 400 in operation. In one month, July 1938, 472 talking books and 257 Braille books were distributed throughout Georgia. Both the Braille books and the talking books are furnished free of charge to the States on a pro rata basis by the American Printing House for the Blind, itself subsidized by the Federal Government.

The Atlanta Chapter of the American Red Cross has recently inaugurated a series of Home Hygiene Classes for teaching blind women simple household hygiene, such as making of beds, bathing sick persons, preparing simple meals and protection from communicable diseases. Classes are also conducted for persons desiring to learn Braille in order that they may transcribe books into Braille for the benefit of the blind.

Another approach to the education of the blind is that of sight-saving classes in the public schools. Such a class has been in op-

① Braille books are books printed in raised type for the blind.

② Talking books consist of a number of recordings which are reproduced on specially built talking machines.

eration for 13 years at the Calhoun School, Atlanta, Georgia. This class is the only one of its kind within the State and one of the few in the South. The class enrollment at present is 17. These children are normal in every respect except their eyes; they do not see well enough to read ordinary print without further damage which might lead to total blindness. Books with very large print are used.

The Calhoun School also has a class of totally blind children studying Braille, taught by a blind teacher. There are only eight children enrolled in this class, which also is the only one of its kind in the public schools in Georgia.

The Works Progress Administration of Georgia, through its division of education at present employs 28 teachers to conduct classes for the blind and near-blind. There are 42 of these classes with an enrollment of 572 blind or near-blind persons. These W. P. A. instructors also teach Braille, chair-caning, and basketry in the homes of the blind. "The Weekly Guide," a weekly paper, published in Braille, reaches 425 blind persons in Georgia and several Southern States. The W. P. A. Braille Project also maintains four circulating libraries.

The Federal Social Security Act in 1935 was the first step toward providing direct financial assistance to needy blind individuals. The sums made available under the Act, are used in making payments to States that have approved plans of aid to the blind.^③ The Aid to the Needy Blind Act, passed by the Georgia Legislature in 1937, made possible Georgia's present approved plan of aid to the blind.^④

③ Federal Act, Number 271, Appendix.

④ Georgia Act, Number 65, Appendix.

Chapter II THE BLIND

Going into every county of the State, the Survey enumerated 8,292 blind persons. Of this number, 4,982, or 60.1 per cent, were white and 3,310, 39.9 per cent, were Negro. The ratio of white blind persons to Negro blind persons varied little from that of white and Negro persons in the general population, which was 63.2 per cent white and 36.8 per cent Negro.

Of the 8,292 blind persons, 4,407, or 53.1 per cent, were males and 3,885, or 46.9 per cent, females. Here again the difference in ratio from the general population was negligible. Of the white blind persons, 2,680, or 53.8 per cent, were males, and 2,302, or 46.2 per cent were females; of the Negro blind persons, 1,727 or 52.2 per cent, were males and 1,583, or 47.8 per cent, females.

These figures indicate that blindness occurs in consistently equal proportions in males and females of both the white and Negro races. It is believed, however, that this is true not so much because of a like susceptibility to all diseases affecting the eyes, but rather to the prevalence of certain diseases among males being offset by others among females. Therefore, if one of these diseases, or its cause, is materially reduced, the ratio of blind males to blind females might be radically altered. For example, to one of these, traumatic blindness, males of both races are susceptible by reason of their natural types of employment, such as saw-milling, steel work, and other types of employment where similar hazards exist.

Females, on the other hand, are less likely to go blind from accidental causes because their normal activities do not bring them in contact with the most common causes of traumatic blindness. It is otherwise, however, with dis-

eases resulting from organic causes, particularly among those females whose normal standards of living are submarginal. In these cases, coupled with exacting domestic work and heavy farm duties, a lack of physical protection and medical attention brings about organic conditions which frequently lead to blindness. Where these conditions exist blindness as a result of these causes is invariably higher than the State average.

TABLE I
TOTAL BLIND PERSONS CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO
RACE AND SEX
GEORGIA - 1938

S e x	R A C E					
	Total		White		Negro	
	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent
Male	4,407	53.1	2,680	53.8	1,727	52.2
Female	3,885	46.9	2,302	46.2	1,583	47.8
TOTAL	8,292	100.0	4,982	100.0	3,310	100.0

It is significant to note that the same conditions affect both races, that wherever a high rate of blindness occurs in one race it is usually found proportionately in the other. This would indicate that in those areas where public health facilities are available both races share in their benefits. Conversely, in those areas where these facilities are grossly inadequate both races suffer from the deficiency.

In a study of this nature, it is obvious that age is an important factor. This is especially true in the case of blind persons where the employable period is probably shorter than in the case of seeing persons. If we assume that the employable period for the blind is between the ages of 20 and 50 years, it will be seen that only about 25 per cent have a reasona-

ble opportunity for employment, even though otherwise qualified. (See Table II.)

It is of interest to note that only 53, or less than one per cent of all blind persons, are under 5 years of age, especially so when it is observed that 873, or 10.5 per cent of the total, were born blind. (Table VI.)

TABLE II
AGE DISTRIBUTION OF BLIND PERSONS
GEORGIA - 1938

Age Groups	Total		White		Negro	
	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent
Under 5	53	.63	39	.80	14	.42
5 - 9	177	2.13	135	2.70	42	1.27
10 - 14	315	3.79	232	4.66	83	2.50
15 - 19	347	4.18	256	5.14	91	2.75
20 - 24	98	1.18	67	1.35	31	0.95
25 - 29	200	2.41	127	2.55	73	2.20
30 - 34	287	3.46	179	3.59	108	3.26
35 - 39	262	3.40	168	3.38	94	2.84
40 - 44	720	8.67	411	8.25	309	9.33
45 - 49	944	11.38	528	10.60	416	12.59
50 - 54	1,175	14.17	767	15.40	408	12.33
55 - 59	1,983	23.91	1,036	20.79	947	28.67
60 - 64	1,708	20.59	1,035	20.79	673	20.34
65 & Over	3	.00	2	.00	1	.00
Unknown	3	.00	2	.00	1	.00
TOTAL	8,292	100.0	4,982	100.0	3,310	100.0

Only 892, or approximately 11 per cent, are under 20 years of age, while 5,313, or 70.1 per cent, are over 45. This uneven distribution is no doubt due to the large number that lose their sight late in life as a result of disease or accident.

As compared to the general population, the marital status of blind persons in Georgia presents a normally unexpected situation. Of the

TABLE III
DISTRIBUTION OF THE BLIND ACCORDING
TO MARITAL STATUS

GEORGIA - 1938

Marital Status	Total		R a c e			
	Number	Per Cent	White		Negro	
			Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent
Single	2,197	26.5	1,515	30.4	682	20.6
Married	3,178	38.4	2,052	41.2	1,126	34.0
Separated	395	4.7	130	2.6	265	8.0
Widowed	2,522	30.4	1,285	25.8	1,237	37.4
TOTAL	8,292	100.0	4,982	100.0	3,310	100.0

8,292 totally or partially blind, 6,095, or 73.5 per cent, are either married or have been. (Table III.) For the general population in 1930 the percentage was slightly less. The fact that blindness, as will be evident later, often precludes economic independence would lead to the belief that a proportionately smaller number of the blind than of the general population would be found among the married. Only 2,197, or 26.5 per cent, were single, notwithstanding the fact that 892 of these were under 20 years of age.

Chapter III LOCATION

Throughout the State there was found an average of 2.9 blind persons per 1,000 population. This is extremely high as compared to results of surveys in certain other states, and is possibly attributable to the absence of an organized program for the blind as well as to the slow development of public health in Georgia.

It is generally conceded that progress throughout Georgia was seriously delayed by the Civil War. Public health facilities, which ordinarily develop very slowly as compared to other programs, came after the natural reconstruction and restoration processes. The fact that the rate of blind persons found in those age groups that represent the first post-war generation is higher than in other groups tends to substantiate this belief. Likewise, the constant decrease in the number of congenital blind cases in recent years since medical attention along with other public benefits became more available, further strengthens this view.

Today only 54 counties in Georgia enjoy the benefits of full-time services by public health officers or nurses.⁽¹⁾ Eradication or control of certain diseases known to cause blindness has never been undertaken with any degree of organized effort. The fact that certain families in some sections of Georgia are represented by large numbers of blind members indicates that health conditions have been left to develop without control or regard for the ultimate result.

⁽¹⁾ As of July, 1938, the State Board of Health listed 54 counties served by organized local public health departments under health commissioners and 11 served by county employed public health nurses. The remaining 94 counties were being served by 20 State employed nurses, each dividing her time among four or five counties.

In view of these observations, the figures for the blind again present unexpected variations. For example: In the six predominantly urban counties, Bibb, Chatham, DeKalb, Fulton,

TABLE IV
RESIDENCE OF BLIND PERSONS BY RACE
GEORGIA - 1938

Race	Total		Residence			
			Urban*		Rural	
	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent
White	4,992	60.1	1,271	57.9	3,711	60.9
Negro	3,310	39.9	926	42.1	2,384	39.1
TOTAL	8,292	100.0	2,197	100.0	6,095	100.0

* Bibb, Chatham, Fulton, Muscogee and Richmond Counties are considered urban in this survey. DeKalb is also considered in this group because it is included within the Greater Atlanta Area. All other counties are rural.

Muscogee and Richmond, where the greater advancement in public health has probably been made, the average rate of blind persons per 1,000 population was 3.0 as compared to the lower rate of 2.7 for the entire State. In these six urban counties there were 2,197 blind persons, or 26.5 per cent of the State total. Of the 2,197, the white numbered 1,271, or 57.9 per cent, and Negroes 926, or 42.1 per cent. For the white the percentage is slightly below the 60.1 per cent for the State; for the Negro slightly above the 39.9 per cent for the State.

From the above, it would be assumed that the rate of blindness in the rural counties would be below the State average for the total, with a lower average for the Negro more than offsetting a higher average for the white. This is true for a majority of the rural counties, but in a few of the ones less progressive in health facilities the relative number of blind persons is in excess of the State average.

BLIND PERSONS PER 1000 POPULATION

BY COUNTIES

GEORGIA

1938

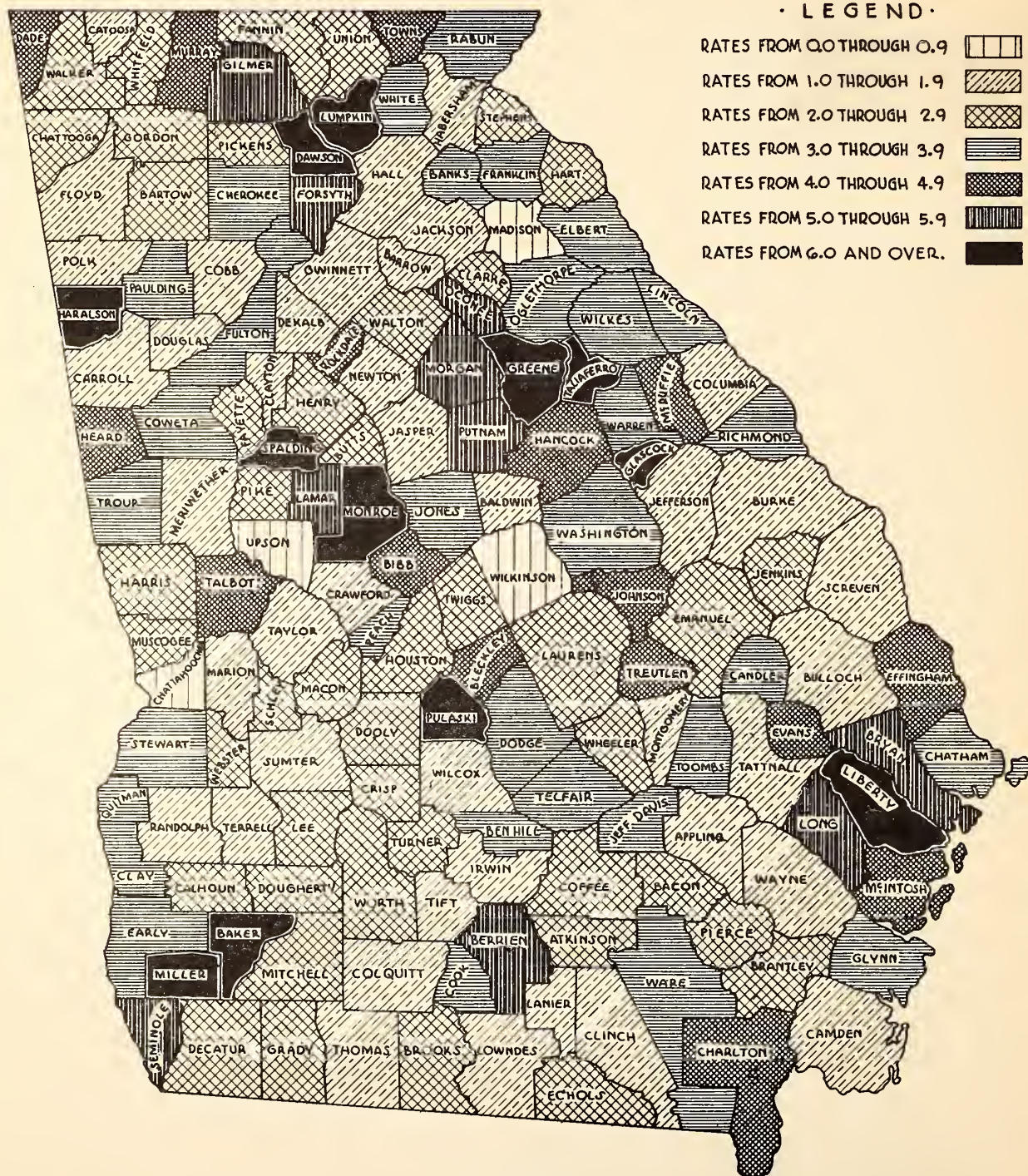


CHART NO. I

Most of the counties in the mountainous and somewhat isolated northern section of Georgia present high percentages of blind persons. The same fact is true of several counties that border the South Georgia swamp lands. This is prob-

of blindness found in urban areas is that the cities present more possibilities for the organization of the blind and offer greater benefits to the blind through their welfare and religious agencies.

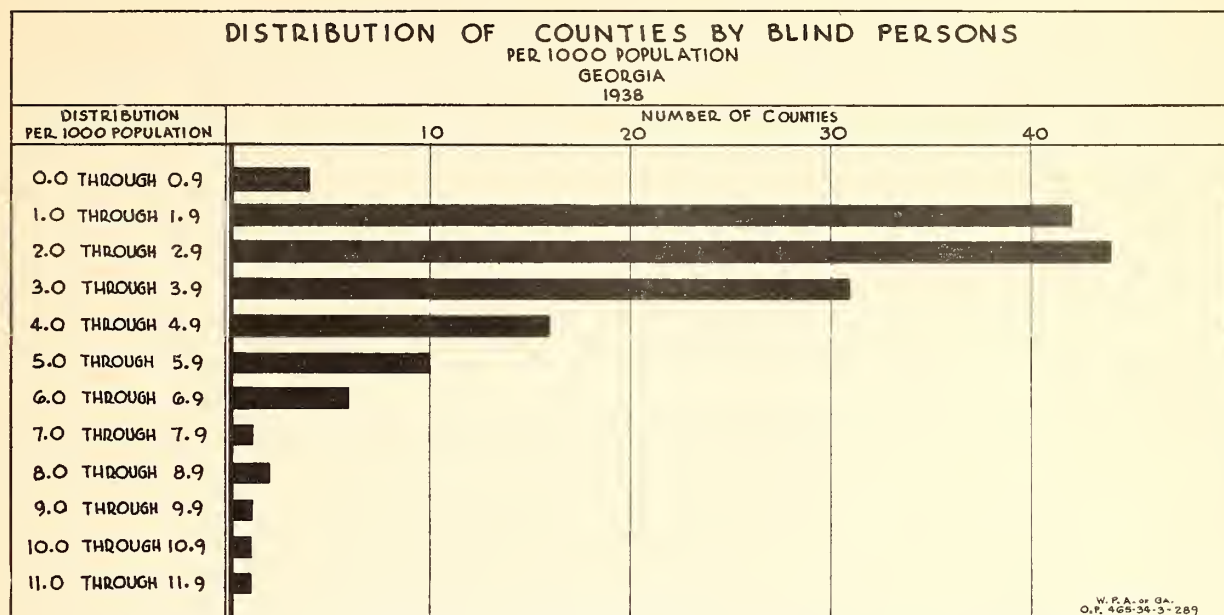


CHART NO. 2

ably due to the fact that progress has been deterred because of natural geographic handicaps in these sections. Unfortunately, public health facilities have not been developed where the needs for such services have been most outstanding. The consequence has been a relatively high rate of congenital blind cases as compared to counties that have maintained public health departments. Blindness due to other causes is shown to be in proportion.

This does not, however, explain the unexpectedly high rate of blindness found in urban areas, although it does indicate that the availability of public health facilities has a favorable effect upon the rate of blindness. The explanation usually advanced for the higher rate

In only four of the counties is the rate of blindness per 1,000 population less than one, the lowest being that of Madison and Upson counties, which have 0.7 blind persons per 1,000 population each. The highest, 11.4, is for Dawson county.

No county failed to report the presence of less than five blind persons Lanier county, which has a population of 5,190, reported only five. The rates of 42 counties range from 1.0 to 1.9 blind persons per 1,000 population and of 44 counties from 2.0 to 2.9 blind persons per 1,000. Thirty-one counties have a rate of 3.0 to 3.9, while 16 have from 5.0 to 5.9. There are only 12 counties with a higher rate than 6.0 and of these six are in the 6.0 to 6.9 group.

Chapter IV DIAGNOSES

It was intended to include in the enumeration persons with vision so impaired as to prevent them from following an ordinary occupation in competition with persons of normal vision. More specifically, the category to be included was interpreted as embracing, in addition to those entirely without sight, those persons who had partial vision, ranging upward from "light perception," but still unable to read ordinary print. It did not include, however, less serious cases of defective vision or cases handicapped by loss of vision in one eye only.

In a survey of this type with enumerators not especially trained, it is quite possible that there are a number of persons enumerated as partially blind who might be ruled ineligible under the above definition. Just how many borderline cases there are, it is impossible to say. Probably the number will be relatively large wherever the line is drawn.

Three thousand nine hundred and fifty-two, or 47.6 per cent of the 8,292 are totally blind,^① and 4,340, or 52.4 per cent are partially blind.^② Of the total white persons, approximately 41 per cent are totally blind and 59 per cent partially blind, while for the Negroes the percentages are practically reversed with 59 per cent totally blind and 42 per cent partially blind.

The ratios of totally blind and partially blind for the different age groups are relatively the same below the 65 year group. The age group of 65 to 74 with 868 totally blind and 1,115 partially blind shows the greatest vari-

ation, a fact accounted for, no doubt, from gradual failure of the eyes in old age.

The age when blindness occurred is highly significant when we consider such matters as measures designed to improve the economic status of the blind, the determination of the employability of the blind, and the question of teaching the blind to read raised print. It is

TABLE V
DISTRIBUTION OF BLIND PERSONS ACCORDING
TO DEGREE OF BLINDNESS
BY RACE

GEORGIA - 1938

Degree of Blindness	Total		R a c e			
	Number	Per Cent	White Number	White Per Cent	Negro Number	Negro Per Cent
Totally Blind	3,952	47.6	2,053	41.2	1,899	57.7
Partially Blind	4,340	52.4	2,929	58.8	1,411	42.3
TOTAL	8,292	100.0	4,982	100.0	3,310	100.0

well known that persons born blind or who lost their sight in infancy present different problems from those of persons blinded in later life. This factor is, therefore, of special significance to those who are working with the blind.

Of the total blind, 873, or 10.5 per cent, were born blind. Another 412, or 5.0 per cent, became blind before reaching the age of five, and 340, or 4.0 per cent, after reaching the age of five but before reaching the age of nine. (Table VI.)

A total of 2,152, or nearly 26 per cent, were either born blind or became blind before reaching the age of 20. These figures show that a very large number of the present blind population has been blind during most of life, a fact probably due chiefly to infectious diseases and accidents occurring in childhood.

① Totally Blind, for this survey, included those who were totally blind and those having light perception only.

② Partially Blind, for this survey, included those having more than light perception but who were unable to read because of impaired vision.

The rapid advancement that has been made in the prevention of blindness at birth is evidenced by the fact that, while 873 of the total blind were born blind, only 53, or less than one per cent, are now less than five years of age. (See Table II.) Drawing another comparison, we

TABLE VI
DISTRIBUTION OF BLIND PERSONS ACCORDING
TO PERIOD OF BLINDNESS

GEORGIA - 1938

Age When Blindness Occurred	Number	Per Cent
Congenital	873	10.5
Under 5	412	5.0
5 - 9	340	4.1
10 - 14	299	3.7
15 - 19	228	2.8
20 - 24	286	3.4
25 - 29	286	3.4
30 - 34	375	4.5
35 - 44	847	10.2
45 - 54	940	11.3
55 - 64	1,372	16.6
65 - 74	1,273	15.3
75 and Over	730	8.8
Unknown	31	0.4
TOTAL	8,292	100.0

see that there are only 11 per cent of the present blind population under 20 years of age, as compared to 26 per cent of the blind population who were born blind or became so before reaching the age of 20 years.

It should be remembered that the above data were derived from the blind person's own knowledge of his condition. In order to gain a more scientific report of each person's condition, this question was asked: "Have you ever been examined by an ophthalmologist?" There were 3,348, or 40 per cent of the total, who replied in the affirmative, leaving 4,944, or 60 per cent, reporting no diagnoses.

Of the white persons, 2,161, or 43.4 per cent reported diagnoses, and 2,221, or 56.6 per cent, no diagnoses. Only 829, or 35.9 per cent, of the Negroes reported diagnoses, and 1,561, or 64.1 per cent, no diagnoses.

There are two factors which apparently account for the limited number of both white and Negro blind persons not having had the ser-

vices of a qualified diagnostician. Of the 159 Georgia counties, there are only 33 in which licensed ophthalmologists reside. In many sections it is necessary for a person to travel a long distance in order to obtain such services. Then too, the destitute circumstances of many of the blind have prohibited a large number from having their condition diagnosed, to say nothing of remedying their condition.

No effort was made to determine the cause of blindness. However, from the diagnoses obtained from the doctors, one may gain some idea of the general causes.

Of the 3,348 reported diagnoses, only 2,186 are available for study, 1,050 of these being for aid to the blind cases of the State Department of Public Welfare. The 2,186 diagnoses represent roughly one out of every four blind persons. Only a few of these diagnoses give a very

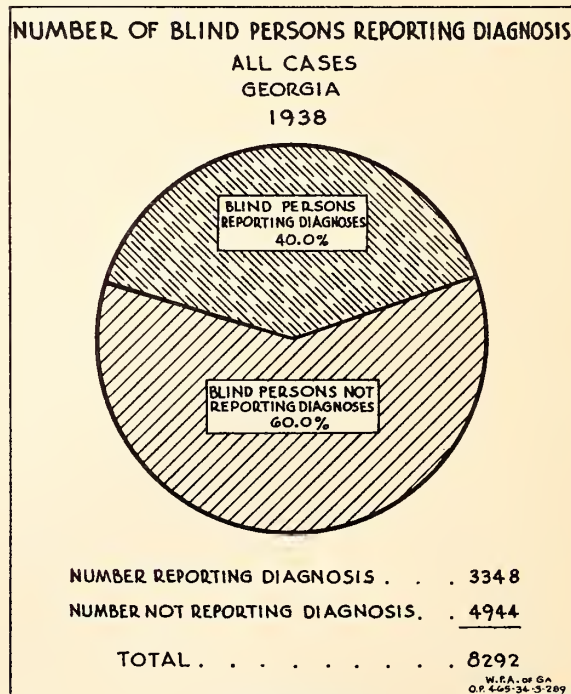


CHART NO.3

graphic picture of the causes of blindness, by far the majority being confined to topographical conditions of the eye.

No technical analyses of these diagnoses are attempted in this report, nor were any anticipated when planning the survey. It was

recognized that it would be impracticable to attempt to determine causes of blindness, since workers used on the survey had no technical knowledge of such problems.

Seven hundred and twenty of the diagnoses, or 33 per cent of the total obtained, were some form of cataract. A cataract is an opacity affecting the whole or part of the lens of the eye, the lens being that part of the eye by which the rays of light are focused on the retina. An eye with beginning cataract is evidence of local ill health. It may be, and very often is, an indication that the delicate balance that maintains the system is not functioning properly and, if possible, should be relieved. It is often associated with other vascular changes, such as hardening of the arteries -- symptoms which for lack of a better term, are generalized as "growing old." They

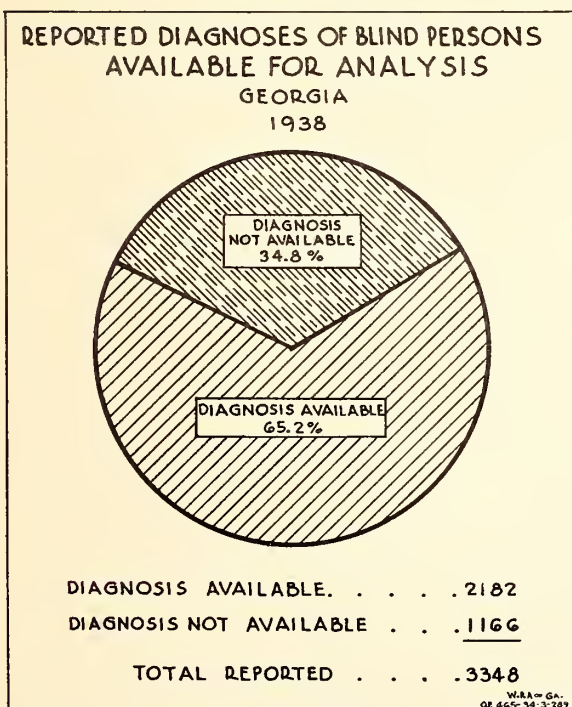


CHART NO. 4

generally occur in persons beyond middle life. The high percentage of cataract in old age is indicated by the fact that 58.7 per cent of all the blind were found to be over 54 years of age.

The next largest number, 303, or 14 per cent, resulted from atrophy of the optic nerves.

The optic nerve is a very important structure, being concerned with the transmission of light images to the brain. Therefore, any disease of the optic nerve is liable to lead to total blindness if not promptly checked.

Glaucoma accounted for 207, or 9.5 per cent. Like cataract, it generally occurs in those beyond middle life. Glaucoma is even more serious and more insidious in its onset than cataract. In its acute form it is painful and

TABLE VII
NUMBER OF BLIND PERSONS REPORTING DIAGNOSES
BY RACE

GEORGIA - 1938

Reporting Diagnoses	Total		White		Negro	
	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent
Reporting	3,348	40.0	2,161	43.4	1,187	35.9
Not Re- porting	4,944	60.0	2,821	56.6	2,123	64.1
TOTAL	8,292	100.0	4,982	100.0	3,310	100.0

accompanied by rapid loss of sight. Its cause is as yet unknown. Probably as in cataract, it is another form of biological poisoning causing a chemical change in the eye fluids.

There were 161, or 7.4 per cent of the diagnoses, listed as traumatic. In the case of traumatic injuries, such as gun-shot wounds and dynamite explosions where one eye is injured or totally destroyed, it is necessary in many instances, to remove the sightless eye in order to protect the good one. This prohibits "sympathetic irritation" that precedes and gives warning of the justly dreaded disease, "sympathetic ophthalmia" of the good eye, generally recognized by a slight redness and increased sensitiveness to light or excessive tears. Many treatments have been tried for "sympathetic ophthalmia", with very disappointing results, thus proving that reliable and effective treatment of the disease lies in its prevention.

The four, cataract, atrophy, glaucoma and traumatic causes, accounted for 1,391, or 64 per cent of the 2,182 diagnoses obtained.

Approximately 30 per cent of the diagnoses showed that blindness was a result of some general disease or accident rather than specific diseases of the eye.

It is probable that much blindness can be prevented by removing the causes of the diseases affecting the eyes. From the 1,050 diagnoses of persons receiving blind assistance, the Welfare Department found many whose eyesight could be restored by minor operations. The State Board

of Health reports that the incidence of blindness occurring today as a result of infection at birth is almost negligible owing to the widespread and mandatory application of a silver nitrate solution at birth. This is true despite the fact that there are upwards of 25,000 babies born in Georgia each year attended only by midwives. This shows what really can be done to prevent blindness by a well organized health department.

Chapter V EDUCATION

In view of the occurrence of blindness after maturity in a large number of cases, the education of an adult blind person often differs in many respects from that of one under 21 years. The former, as a rule, obtains education in seeing schools, the latter in schools for the blind. Keeping in mind these facts, it is understandable why a much larger number of blind have some degree of normal education, although never having been enrolled in a school for the blind.

Actually, of the 8,239 blind persons five years of age and older, only 590, or 7.1 per cent, reported having attended a school for the blind. There were 453 white blind persons, or 9.2 per cent, of the total white persons five years of age and older who had attended a school for the blind. Only 137 Negro blind persons, or 4.1 per cent, of those five years of age and older had attended a school for the blind.

Of the above 453 white blind persons reporting attendance at a school for the blind, 108 reported also attendance at a school for the seeing. Also, of the 137 Negroes reporting attendance at a school for the blind, 37 reported having attended a school for the seeing in addition.

Bearing in mind that for a long period of years attendance at the State Academy for the Blind has been limited to individuals under 21 years of age, school attendance by those becoming blind before reaching that age is more significant. For, while only 590, or 7.1 per cent, of the 8,239 blind persons over five years old had attended a school for the blind, it was found that 526, or 23.6 per cent, of the 2,228 who became blind before reaching 21 years had attended such a school. Of the 1,573 white per-

sons in this group, 415, or 26.4 per cent, had attended a school for the blind; of the 655 Negroes, 111, or 16.9 per cent. Among the 415 white blind persons attending a school for the blind, 77 reported also attendance at a school for the seeing, as did 21 of the 111 Negroes.

Of the total blind population, 4,243 were white over 21 years of age. Of these, 3,669, or 86.5 per cent, reported some education. Of 3,049 Negroes over 21 years of age, 1,931, or 63.2 per cent, reported some education.

TABLE VIII
COMPARISON OF WHITE AND NEGRO
REPORTING NO EDUCATION
GEORGIA - 1938

Race	Total Total		5 to 21 Incl.		Over 21 Years	
	Over 5 Yrs.	Uneducated	Total	Uneducated	Total	Uneducated
White	4,943	722	690	148	4,243	574
Negro	3,296	1,192	257	74	3,039	1,118
TOTAL	8,239	1,914	947	222	7,282	1,692

Of the 690 white children between the ages of five and 21 years inclusive, 90 were enrolled in the Academy for the Blind at Macon. An additional 452 reported some education, leaving 148, or 21.5 per cent, with no education. Only 38 of the 257 Negro children were enrolled in the Academy, with 145 others reporting some education. This leaves 74, or 29 per cent, with no education.

Even though 222 white and Negro children report no education, there is no waiting list of applicants at the Academy.^① Just what percentage of the children between the ages of five and 21 with no education is eligible for entrance to

① Official Report of the Superintendent of the Georgia Academy for the Blind to the Georgia Department of Public Welfare (Georgia State Department of Public Welfare, Official Report, January, 1937 to June, 1938, p. 265.

the Academy is not known, but it is certainly evident that there are many blind or partially blind children in Georgia who should be enrolled in either sight-saving classes or in the Academy.

This condition is not a condemnation of the Academy. Much of the fault can be laid to the parents of the children. They are reluctant to give up their children for the period of years necessary to attendance in the Academy. Then there is the group of blind children among cer-

TABLE IX
ABILITY OF BLIND PERSONS TO READ RAISED TYPE
BY TYPE OF SCHOOL ATTENDED
GEORGIA - 1938

Ability to Read	Total	Attended School			
		None	For Blind	For Seeing	Attd. Both
Able to Read Raised Type	585	-	411	44	130
Unable to Read Raised Type	7,707	1,967	33	5,691	16
TOTAL	8,292	1,967	444	5,735	146

tain classes who do not know of the Academy. However, with the broadening of public health and welfare facilities, these conditions are being rapidly corrected.

Five hundred and eighty-five, or 7.1 per cent, of the total blind persons, both white and colored, are reported as being able to read raised type. Four hundred and eleven attended a school for the blind; 44 attended schools for the seeing; and 130 attended both.

There are 7,707, or 93.7 per cent, unable to read raised type. Of those unable to read raised type, 1,967 attended no school. Thirty-three of those who attended a school for the blind cannot read raised type, which fact may be accounted for by reason of the length of time that has elapsed since they attended. Also some attended for such a short period of time that they did not learn to read raised type. Sixteen persons reported attending both a school for the

blind and a school for the seeing, but never learned to read raised type.

No attempt was made to distinguish between the different systems of raised type studied by the blind. It is surprising that only 585, or less than one per cent, of the total blind persons are able to read raised type, and it is not likely that this number will increase to any great extent, because most of the blind lose their sight at an advanced age which makes it difficult for them to master the art of reading with their fingers.

For the younger and middle aged groups, raised print reading with the fingers is slow and fatiguing, except in the cases of children either congenitally blind or who lost their sight in early childhood. The radio with its educational drama and news broadcasts takes the place of reading. With the perfection of "talking books," another step will be taken in making readily available to all blind persons educational and cultural material, as well as entertainment.

From the standpoint of educational attainment, it is probable that the average grades in school reached by the blind will compare not so unfavorably with the average for the population as a whole. Of the white blind persons attending school 1,668, or approximately one-third, had better than a sixth grade education. Reported in the group were 166 with college training. For the 3,310 Negroes, only 327, or approximately one-tenth, completed better than the sixth grade, with only 21 with college training.^①

From a standpoint of vocational training it was found that a total of 656 had had special training. The white persons numbered 505, the Negroes 151.

One great trouble with vocational training is that modern inventions almost over night can

① Table 9 Appendix.

make the training worthless to the individual.^① For this reason the Academy for the Blind has discarded training in several vocations. Training in more or less standardized vocations are continued, but, in line with modern educational tendencies, emphasis is placed on making the student as intelligent and as skillful as possible in order that he may take advantage of any opportunity for profitable employment that may arise. This new thought appears sound when it is considered that in answer to the question, "What type of work or training would you like to follow?," only 2,755, or 33.2 per cent, of all the blind indicated a vocational preference.

Of the 2,755, more than one-fourth, or 703,

^① Official Report of the Superintendent of the Georgia Academy for the Blind (Georgia State Department of Public Welfare, January, 1937, to June, 1938, op.cit., p. 265).

preferred farming, a choice, no doubt, influenced by reason of the large number already so engaged. Basketry, broom-making, chair-caning, mattress making, rug making and weaving attracted the attention of 385, or 14 per cent.

There were 3,049, or 36.7 per cent, reporting no desire for any type of work or training. This is probably true because of the fact that so many became blind too late in life to learn a new trade.

The remaining 2,488, or 30 per cent, gave no choice of occupation. How many really desired to follow some occupation but did not know enough about different trades and occupations that they could follow is not known. It is entirely possible that a large number could be counted as desiring an occupation if they were more acquainted with employment opportunities.

Chapter VI EMPLOYMENT STATUS

There are varied opinions relative to the ability of the blind to work efficiently and safely. Some maintain that they are capable on suitable jobs and if given the opportunity can compete successfully with the seeing. Others

income. The above figures show that only 1,150, or 13.9 per cent of all the blind, have some form of gainful employment, sheltered or otherwise.

It is true that a very large number of the

TABLE X
EMPLOYMENT OF BLIND PERSONS
BY RACE AND SEX
GEORGIA - 1938

	Total White and Negro	R a c e					
		Total	W h i t e Male	Female	Total	N e g r o Male	Female
Employed	1,915	1,345	797	548	570	350	220
Not Employed	6,377	3,637	1,883	1,754	2,740	1,377	1,363
TOTAL	8,292	4,982	2,680	2,302	3,310	1,737	1,583

believe that sheltered employment is the only solution. It is probable that individual capacities for employment are as marked among the blind as among the seeing; that proportionately they are as efficient on selected jobs as the seeing.

The range of present occupations listed for the blind is, no doubt, as wide and varied as could be found for the same number of persons picked at random from among the seeing. There were 1,345 white persons and 570 Negroes reporting some form of occupation.

The number of white persons as compared to Negroes reporting an occupation is seemingly large. However, this total is reduced somewhat by 125 students and 378 housewives, leaving only 842, or 17 per cent, gainfully employed. Of the 570 Negroes reporting employment, 109 were engaged in housework, 28 were students, and 25 beggars. The remaining 308, or 13.3 per cent, were gainfully employed.

In analyzing the gainfully employed, consideration must be given to the success of their endeavors from a standpoint of self-sustaining

blind are unemployables, due both to advanced age and to other disabilities. Nevertheless, the number possessing no gainful employment, 7,142, or 86.1 per cent, clearly indicates that the problem of employment is a grave one.

It is known that there are a few very successful blind individuals whose income is as high as or higher than that of the average seeing person. Obviously, these are exceptions. Although an appreciable number of blind people have some form of occupation, by and large they are not self-supporting. For example, of the total 1,345 white persons reporting some form of occupation, only 665 were self-supported; of the 570 Negroes, 280 were self-supported. In other words, about one-half the employed blind rely on relatives or others for supplementary income.

With the exception of better education, vocational training and more selective occupations, there were few advantages obtaining to the self-supported group. Among the self-supported white, 53 per cent had better than a sixth grade education, with 10.3 per cent having attended college and 19.9 per cent with voca-

tional training. For the total white blind, 33.5 per cent had better than a sixth grade education. 3.3 per cent had attended college, and 10.1 per cent had taken vocational training. Among the self-supported Negroes, 19.9 per cent had better than a sixth grade education, four per cent had attended college and 10 per cent had taken vocational training. Among all the Negroes, 9.9 per cent had better than a sixth grade education, less than one per cent had attended college, and 4.6 per cent had obtained vocational training.

Although a wide range of occupations for all the employed blind was listed, it was found that among the self-supported white group a higher proportion had professional, managerial and proprietary occupations, the percentage being 23.8 for the self-supported white and 15.7 for the total employed white. Probably due to the lower educational level of the Negroes, including even the self-supported, a similar distinction did not prevail.⁽¹⁾

As regards the effect of age upon the ability of the blind to support themselves, it was found that the self-supported were distributed through all age groupings in about the same ratios as all the employed blind. However, it was observed that of 241 unemployed persons supported by their own resources, 177 were past 54 years of age, a somewhat higher rate than that of the total unemployed blind. If it is assumed that the self-supported unemployed in the advanced age brackets are maintaining themselves on accumulated personal earnings, this may be taken to indicate a more stable earning capacity over a longer period of years for the blind with educational and vocational advantages.

There were 1,317 blind persons who had never had an occupation of any kind. Included in this number were 687 of the 892 blind persons under 20 years of age.

⁽¹⁾ For occupational classes see Table 7, Appendix.

At the time of the survey, there were 1,386 of those who had no occupation prior to blindness still unemployed. This leaves 431, or approximately 24 per cent, who became employed after blindness occurred. Those becoming employed after blindness occurred were spread over the entire range of occupational classifications.⁽²⁾

Loss of employment was relatively the same for all occupational classifications. The highest percentage loss of employment was in domestic and professional service, with 81 per cent showing no occupation after blindness. The lowest percentage loss was among proprietors, managers and officials, with a loss in employment of 65 per cent. This is probably explained by the fact that persons employed as proprietors, managers and officials, are able to continue as such with less loss of efficiency than is true in other trades.

As an example of the effect of blindness on normal occupation, let us consider the 125 persons listed as professional and technical workers. After blindness occurred we find 91 with no employment and only 19 now engaged in the same general class of occupations. Twelve of the remaining 15 continued in some occupation by shifting down the occupational ladder to unskilled labor, domestic and personal service, and farm labor.

Those blind persons showing the greatest loss of employment for which they were trained are those in the skilled and semi-skilled trades, where eyesight is more important than in the average lines of occupations. Before blindness occurred, there were 781 persons with skilled or semi-skilled occupations. After blindness 601, or 77 per cent, were unemployed. Only 25 retained the same occupations. As with the professional and technical groups, the others who remained employed shifted down the occupational ladder to unskilled, domestic and personal service, and farm labor.

⁽²⁾ See Table 12, Appendix.

With 7,142, or 86.1 per cent of the 8,292 blind persons, having no form of gainful employment, it is a logical expectation that an excessively large number are dependent. Relief figures bear this out.

tions in the majority of cases, an added expense for the counties not so fortunately located.

There were 739 cases, or nine per cent, receiving some other form of relief, such as general county relief or surplus commodities

TABLE XI
DISTRIBUTION OF BLIND PERSONS RECEIVING PUBLIC ASSISTANCE
BY AGE GROUPS, RACE AND SEX
GEORGIA - 1938

Age Groups	Total White and Negro	R a c e					
		White			Negro		
		Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Under 5 Yrs.	3	3	2	1	-	-	-
5 - 9	17	15	6	9	2	1	1
10 - 14	37	36	21	15	1	1	-
15 - 19	58	53	29	24	5	3	2
20 - 21	4	3	3	-	1	1	-
22 - 24	51	32	19	13	19	8	11
25 - 29	88	52	32	20	36	21	15
30 - 34	117	64	35	29	53	39	14
35 - 44	266	131	71	60	135	86	49
45 - 54	365	184	113	71	181	115	66
55 - 64	401	231	140	91	170	116	54
65 - 74	895	442	243	199	453	247	206
75 and Over	813	452	214	238	361	177	184
Age Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	3,115	1,698	928	770	1,417	815	602

Of the total 8,292 blind persons, 1,054, or 12.7 per cent, were receiving aid to the needy blind at the time of the enumeration. An additional 1,322, or 16 per cent, were receiving old age assistance, making a total of 2,376, or 29 per cent of all the blind, receiving benefits from the State Department of Public Welfare under provisions of the Federal Social Security Act.^①

The fact that there is such a large number of blind persons receiving old age assistance instead of aid to the blind is due to the difficulties usually involved in obtaining diagnoses of their blindness. Licensed ophthalmologists reside in only 33 of the 159 counties, thus necessitating many miles of travel for examina-

furnished by the Federal Surplus Commodity Corporation and distributed by the Department of Public Welfare.

In four assistance categories, aid to blind, old age assistance, general relief and surplus commodities, a total of 3,115, or 38 per cent of all the blind, were participating. Applications for aid to the blind in September still numbered 992.

The employment and relief records of the blind are ample evidence of the incapability of Georgia's blind as yet to remotely approach economic stability. Whatever hope that can be held out to them for a livelihood divorced from supplementary aid appears to revolve around higher education and vocational training, the latter along the lines of professional, managerial and proprietary occupations.

① For provisions of State and Federal Acts, see Appendix.

Chapter VII

SUMMARY

In reviewing the opportunities for the blind, it is found that through other than the State Academy for the Blind at Macon, which offers education to children from seven to 21 years of age, and the State Welfare Department which administers aid to the blind, little hope for the solution of the problems of Georgia's blind exists; few opportunities for a blind person to rehabilitate himself in the community and become a happy and useful citizen are now in evidence.

Blindness is no respecter of persons or races. The number of blind among the white and Negro races is relatively the same in proportion to their respective population. Blindness occurs, likewise, in relatively equal proportions between males and females, with no distinction as to race.

Possibly contrary to normal expectations, marriage among the blind is in greater proportion than for the general population. The percentage of the total blind persons married was 73.5 per cent as against 70 per cent for the general population in 1930.

The highest rates of blindness were found to be in a few isolated counties and in the six urban counties. There are indications that the first of these situations prevails because of a combination of meager economic resources and a lack of public health and other social facilities. In the second situation greater possibilities for organization of the blind and other opportunities through welfare and religious agencies attract the blind to urban areas.

The occurrence of blindness in relatively equal proportions between males and females is

not believed to be because of like susceptibility to conditions causing blindness. For example, blindness resulting from traumatic causes occurs more frequently in males and blindness from organic causes, more frequently in females.

In the 2,186 diagnoses available for study, blindness was caused from cataract in 33 per cent of the cases and from glaucoma in 9.5 per cent, both of which diseases generally occur in advanced age. Atrophy of the optic nerves accounted for 14 per cent, and blindness from traumatic causes for 7.4 per cent.

As the result of mandatory application of "silver nitrate solution" at birth, the incidence of blindness occurring today as a result of infection at birth is negligible.

Of the 8,292 blind persons in Georgia, only 1,150, or 13.9 per cent, were gainfully employed. Indications were that a majority of these received mere pittance for their work as judged by the income of the average American citizen.

Of the 4,243 white blind persons over 21 years of age, 3,669, or 86.5 per cent, reported some education, although only 453 of all white blind persons had ever attended a school for the blind. Likewise, of 3,049 Negroes over 21 years of age, 1,931, or 63.2 per cent, reported some education, although only 137 of all the Negro blind had ever attended a school for the blind.

The education of the blind compares favorably with that of the general population, the education of the white blind being on a higher level than that of the colored blind.

Full utilization of the State Academy for the Blind has not been obtained in the past, but improved health and welfare facilities are rapidly correcting this condition.

APPENDIX

SCOPE AND METHOD

A blind person was defined for the purposes of this survey, as any person whose eyesight is so impaired that he is unable to carry on his work under ordinary conditions, or who cannot see well enough to read, even with the aid of glasses, or whose vision is less than 20/200 of normal in the better eye.

In this census the enumerators were required to differentiate between only two degrees of blindness, the two categories being: (a) Totally blind, or light perception only; (b) Partially blind, having more than light perception but unable to read. A more detailed differentiation might have been desirable but the two categories were felt to be sufficient, since the main purpose of the survey was to locate all the blind with the object of diagnoses being made in a follow-up by licensed ophthalmologists, after completion of the survey.

The Survey of the Blind attempted to include data on all blind people living in the State during the time of the survey, including persons of all ages, irrespective of race, sex, or financial condition.

No medical analysis was attempted other than to obtain the doctor's diagnosis where such was reported. Instead, the report is limited to a general discussion of the number of blind persons, their age, marital status, degree of blindness, education, present occupation, etc. Detailed information includes such data as race, sex, age, location and present occupation.

Locating the blind.-- The location of the blind was the primary step in the census. In federal censuses, location is made through house-to-house canvass, which is usually too expensive for a special survey.

The method of getting as complete a census

as possible will be covered briefly. It is impossible to tell just what per cent of all the blind in Georgia were found but it is believed that the number missed would be negligible.

The Survey of the Blind was a state-wide W. P. A. Project, supervised by a state supervisor and nine area supervisors, one for each W. P. A. area in the State.

At the start, a meeting of prominent people representing state organizations and societies, was called to act as an advisory committee, and to lend support by indorsing the survey as a worthy project.

The State School Superintendent, the Director of the State Health Department, and the Director of the Vocational Rehabilitation Division of the Educational Department were contacted and their cooperation was received through the life of the project. The 78 Lions clubs of Georgia (aiding the blind is one of their major activities) went on record as indorsing the survey, and instructions were issued by the District Governors to each Club President to organize a committee for the blind and render any assistance possible.

The Area Supervisor when beginning work in a county requested the W. P. A. to assign a worker. This worker was given special training. A committee of responsible, active, civic-minded citizens was chosen to act as an advisory committee for the county. The size of the committee depended upon the size and type of the county. All newspapers were contacted, and representatives of the papers attended the meetings. The papers gave splendid cooperation to the survey. The public was asked to send the committee names of any blind persons in the community. Some papers wrote editorials and

practically all papers printed a facsimile of the census card. This facsimile was used by the public for mailing in the names of blind persons.

The duties of the committee were: To direct publicity locally so as to get the object of the survey before as many persons as possible and consequently secure a maximum of cooperation from a maximum number of people; to be responsible for the distribution of the census cards to any person or group of persons having knowledge of the existence of blind persons; to be responsible for the collection of the census cards.

The census cards were collected and turned over to the county clerks assigned to the project from the W. P. A. rolls, who checked them for duplication. After the census cards were sorted and checked, the information was transcribed to the schedule cards. The schedule cards were then turned over to the enumerators for the field enumeration, an enumerator having been appointed for each county. In the large urban counties, several enumerators were used, the number depending on the size and population of the county. The enumerator interviewed each blind person in the county to which he was assigned and obtained the necessary information to complete the schedule card. When the schedules had been completed in the field they were carried to the doctors designated on the schedule for verification of the diagnoses. The schedules were then routed to the county supervisors, who instructed the clerks to type the schedules on

heavy white bristol schedule cards. The white schedule cards were then sent to the central office for tabulation, and the original buff schedule cards returned to the county department of public welfare's file for permanent keeping.

The school superintendents in each county were contacted and their permission to canvass the schools throughout the county was received. Where the number of schools was too large, form letters were sent to each school principal with census cards and self-addressed franked envelopes for returning the census cards.

All physicians, county health officers and nurses were contacted personally and much assistance was received from them. In many counties transportation was furnished locally in order that workers might more easily contact the blind.

The above procedure for locating the blind would appear to be sufficiently effective for a project of this nature. However, it was necessary to use still more intensive efforts to locate many of the blind.

In the urban counties, after it seemed that the blind had been located and scheduled, maps were prepared. The blind located on each street were plotted on the maps. Workers were sent out into these neighborhoods to make inquiries, not only among the known blind but also among other residents. In this way a great many additional blind persons were located, especially in Fulton County.

H. R. 7260
AN ACT

TITLE X - GRANTS TO STATES FOR AID TO THE BLIND

APPROPRIATION

Sec. 1001. For the purpose of enabling each State to furnish financial assistance, as far as practicable under the conditions in such State, to needy individuals who are blind, there is hereby authorized to be appropriated for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1936, the sum of \$3,000,000, and there is hereby authorized to be appropriated for each fiscal year thereafter a sum sufficient to carry out the purposes of this title. The sums made available under this section shall be used for making payments to States which have submitted, and had approved by the Social Security Board, State plans for aid to the blind.

STATE PLANS FOR AID TO THE BLIND

Sec. 1002. (a) A State plan for aid to the blind must (1) provide that it shall be in effect in all political subdivisions of the State, and, if administered by them, be mandatory upon them; (2) provide for financial participation by the State; (3) either provide for the establishment or designation of a single State agency to administer the plan, or provide for the establishment or designation of a single State agency to supervise the administration of the plan; (4) provide for granting to any individual, whose claim for aid is denied, an opportunity for a fair hearing before such State agency; (5) provide such methods of administration (other than those relating to selection, tenure of office, and compensation of personnel) as are found by the Board to be necessary for the efficient operation of the plan; (6) provide that the State agency will make such reports, in such

form and containing such information, as the Board may from time to time require, and comply with such provisions as the Board may from time to time find necessary to assure the correctness and verification of such reports; and (7) provide that no aid will be furnished any individual under the plan with respect to any period with respect to which he is receiving old-age assistance under the State plan approved under section 2 of this Act.

(b) The Board shall approve any plan which fulfills the conditions specified in subsection (a), except that it shall not approve any plan which imposes, as a condition of eligibility for aid to the blind under the plan --

(1) Any residence requirement which excludes any resident of the State who has resided therein five years during the nine years immediately preceding the application for aid and has resided therein continuously for one year immediately preceding the application; or

(2) Any citizenship requirement which excludes any citizen of the United States.

PAYMENT TO STATES

Sec. 1003. (a) From the sums appropriated therefor, the Secretary of the Treasury shall pay to each State which has an approved plan for aid to the blind, for each quarter, beginning with the quarter commencing July 1, 1935, (1) an amount, which shall be used exclusively as aid to the blind, equal to one-half of the total of the sums expended during such quarter as aid to the blind under the State plan with respect to each individual who is blind and is not an inmate of a public institution, not counting so

much of such expenditure with respect to any individual for any month as exceeds \$30, and (2) 5 per centum of such amount, which shall be used for paying the costs of administering the State plan or for aid to the blind, or both, and for no other purpose.

(b) The method of computing and paying such amounts shall be as follows:

(1) The Board shall, prior to the beginning of each quarter, estimate the amount to be paid to the State for such quarter under the provisions of clause (1) of subsection (a), such estimate to be based on (A) a report filed by the State containing its estimate of the total sum to be expended in such quarter in accordance with the provisions of such clause, and stating the amount appropriated or made available by the State and its political subdivisions for such expenditures in such quarter, and if such amount is less than one-half of the total sum of such estimated expenditures, the source or sources from which the difference is expected to be derived. (B) records showing the number of blind individuals in the State, and (C) such other investigation as the Board may find necessary.

(2) The Board shall then certify to the Secretary of the Treasury the amount so estimated by the Board, reduced or increased, as the case may be, by any sum by which it finds that its estimate for any prior quarter was greater or less than the amount which should have been paid to the State under clause (1) of subsection (a) for such quarter, except to the extent that such sum has been applied to make the amount certified for any prior quarter greater or less than the amount estimated by the Board for such prior quarter.

(3) The Secretary of the Treasury shall

thereupon, through the Division of Disbursement of the Treasury Department, and prior to audit or settlement by the General Accounting Office, pay to the State, at the time or times fixed by the Board, the amount so certified, increased by 5 per centum.

OPERATION OF STATE PLANS

Sec. 1004. In the case of any State plan for aid to the blind which has been approved by the Board, if the Board, after reasonable notice and opportunity for hearing to the State agency administering or supervising the administration of such plan, finds --

(1) that the plan has been so changed as to impose any residence or citizenship requirement prohibited by section 1002 (b), or that in the administration of the plan any such prohibited requirement is imposed, with the knowledge of such State agency, in a substantial number of cases; or

(2) that in the administration of the plan there is a failure to comply substantially with any provision required by section 1002 (a) to be included in the plan; the Board shall notify such State agency that further payments will not be made to the State until the Board is satisfied that such prohibited requirement is no longer so imposed, and that there is no longer any such failure to comply. Until it is so satisfied it shall make no further certification to the Secretary of the Treasury with respect to such State.

DEFINITION

Sec. 1006. When used in this title the term "aid to the blind" means money payments to blind individuals.

STATE OF GEORGIA
No. 65
AN ACT

To promote the public welfare by providing aid to the needy blind, to provide definitions of the terms used herein, to define blindness, and to define eligibility for assistance to the needy blind, to provide the amount of assistance which shall be paid, to define the duties of the State Department of Public Welfare and the County Departments of Public Welfare with reference to the administration of this Act, to provide regulations with reference to applications for assistance, investigation of applications, examination by ophthalmologists and granting of assistance and funeral expenses under the terms of this Act to exempt assistance from legal process and to provide that such assistance shall not be assignable, to provide for appeal to the State department from rulings of county departments and for period reconsideration and changes in the amount of assistance, to provide for reexamination as to eyesight and for expenses for treatment of recipients, to provide regulations with reference to recovery of assistance from recipients and from the estate of recipients, to provide regulations surrounding removal of a recipient from one county to another, to provide financial procedures and authority of the General Assembly and counties to appropriate the necessary funds for the administration of this Act to define fraudulent acts in violation of the provisions herein, to provide limitations of the Act, a short title therefor, the effective date for the repeal of existing laws and for a separability clause and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Georgia and it is enacted by authority of the same;

Section 1.

Definitions. As used in this Act; "State Department" means the State Department of Public

Welfare created by the Welfare Organization Act of 1937.

"County Department" means the county or district department of public welfare of each of the several counties in this State created by the 1937 Public Welfare Law.

"Applicant" means a person who has applied for assistance under this Act.

"Recipient" means a person who has received assistance under the terms of this Act.

"Ophthalmologist" means a physician licensed to practice medicine in this State and who is actively engaged in the treatment of diseases of the human eye.

"Assistance" means money payments to blind persons in need.

"Supplementary Services" means services other than money payments to blind persons in need, including payments toward the funeral expenses of such persons as provided in this Act. Section 2.

Definition of Blindness. A person shall be considered "blind" for the purposes of this Act whose vision, with correcting glasses, is so defective as to prevent the performance of activities for which eyesight is essential. The State Department shall promulgate rules and regulations stating, in terms of ophthalmic measurements, the amount of visual acuity which an applicant may have and still be eligible for assistance under this Act.

Section 3.

Eligibility for Assistance to the Needy Blind. Assistance" shall be granted under this Act to any blind person who:

(a) Is 21 years of age or older;

(b) Has not sufficient income or other resources to provide a reasonable subsistence compatible with decency and health;

(c) Is not an inmate of any public institution at the time of receiving assistance. An inmate of such an institution may, however, make application for such assistance but the assistance, if granted, shall not begin until after he ceases to be an inmate;

(d) Has not made an assignment or transfer of property for the purpose of rendering himself eligible for assistance under this Act at any time within two years, immediately prior to the filing of application for assistance pursuant to the provisions of this Act.

(e) Has been a bona fide resident of the State for not less than one year.

(f) Is not receiving old-age assistance.

(g) Is not publicly soliciting alms in any part of this State. The term "publicly soliciting" shall be construed to mean the wearing, carrying or exhibiting of signs denoting blindness, or the carrying of the receptacles for the reception of alms or the doing of the same by proxy or by begging from house to house.

(h) All assistance under this Act shall be suspended in the event of and during the period of confinement in any Public Penal institution after final conviction of a crime against the law of this State or any political subdivision thereof.

Section 4.

Amount of Assistance. The amount of assistance which any person shall receive, shall be determined by the county department with the due regard to the resources and necessary expenditures of the individual and the conditions existing in each case and in accordance with the rules and regulations made by the State Department, and shall be sufficient, when added to all other income and support of the recipient, to provide such person with a reasonable subsistence compatible with decency and health.

Section 5.

Duties of State Department. The State Department shall:

(a) Supervise the administration of assistance to the needy blind under this Act by the County Departments;

(b) Make such rules and regulations and take such action as may be necessary or desirable for carrying out the provisions of this Act. All rules and regulations made by the State Department shall be binding on the county departments and shall be complied with by the respective county departments;

(c) Designate the procedure to be followed in securing a competent medical examination for the purpose of determining blindness in the individual applicant for assistance;

(d) Establish standards for personnel employed by the State and county departments in the administration of this Act and make necessary rules and regulations to maintain such standards;

(e) Prescribe the form of and print and supply to the county departments such forms as it may deem necessary and advisable;

(f) Cooperate with the Federal Government in matters of mutual concern pertaining to assistance to the needy blind, including the adoption of such methods of administration as are found by the Federal Government to be necessary for the efficient operation of the plan for such assistance;

(g) Publish an annual report and such interim reports as may be necessary;

(h) Designate a suitable number of ophthalmologists, duly licensed to practice medicine in Georgia and actively engaged in the treatment of diseases of the human eye, to examine applicants and recipients of assistance to the blind;

(i) Fix the fees to be paid to ophthalmologists for examinations of applicants, such fees to be paid out of funds allocated to the State Department or to the county departments;

(j) Initiate or cooperate with other agencies in developing measures for the prevention

of blindness, the restoration of eyesight, and the vocational adjustment of blind persons, including employment in regular industries, independent business, sheltered work shops or home industry, and the instruction of the adult blind in their homes.

Section 6.

Duties of the County Departments. The county departments shall:

(a) Administer the provisions of this Act in the respective counties subject to the rules and regulations prescribed by the State Department pursuant to the provisions of this Act;

(b) Report to the State Department at such times and in such manner and form as the State Department may from time to time direct.

(c) Submit to the County Commissioner or Board of Commissioners, or the Constituted Fiscal or Financial Agent of the county after approval by the State Department, a budget containing an estimate and supporting data setting forth the amount of money needed to carry out the provisions of this Act.

Section 7.

Application for Assistance. Application for assistance under this Act shall be made to the county department of the county in which the applicant has resided for a period of one year. The application shall be in writing or reduced to writing in the manner and upon the form prescribed by the State Department. Such application shall contain a statement of the amount of property, both personal and real, in which the applicant has an interest and of all income which he may have at the time of the filing of the application, and such other information as may be required by the State Department.

Section 8.

Investigation of Applications. Whenever a county department receives an application for assistance under this Act, an investigation and

record shall promptly be made of the circumstances of the applicant in order to ascertain the facts supporting the application and in order to obtain such other information as may be required by the rules of the State Department.

Section 9.

Examination by Ophthalmologist. No application shall be approved until the applicant has been examined by an ophthalmologist designated or approved by the State Department to make such examinations. The examining ophthalmologist shall certify in writing upon forms provided by the State Department the findings of the examination.

Section 10.

Granting of Assistance. Upon the completion of such investigation the county department shall decide whether the applicant is eligible for assistance under the provisions of this Act, and determine in accordance with the rules and regulations of the State Department the amount of such assistance and date on which such assistance shall begin. The county department shall notify the applicant of its decision. Such assistance shall be paid monthly to the applicant upon order of the county department from funds allocated to the county department for this purpose.

Section 11.

Funeral Expenses. On the death of the recipient reasonable funeral expenses, not exceeding \$75.00, may, subject to the rules and regulations of the State Department, be paid by the county department if the estate of the deceased is insufficient to pay the same and the persons legally responsible for the support of the deceased are unable to pay the same.

Section 12.

Assistance not Assignable. Assistance granted under this Act shall not be transferable or assignable, at law or in equity, and none of

the money paid or payable under this Act shall be subject to execution, levy, attachment, garnishment or other legal process, or to the operation of any bankruptcy or insolvency law.

Section 13.

Appeal to the State Department. If an application is not acted upon by the county department within a reasonable time after the filing of the application, or is denied in whole or in part, or if any award of assistance is modified or cancelled under any provision of this Act, the applicant or recipient may appeal to the State Department in the manner and form prescribed by the State Department. The State Department shall, upon receipt of such an appeal, give the applicant or recipient reasonable notice and opportunity for a fair hearing.

The State Department may also, upon its own motion, review any decision of a county department, and may consider any application upon which a decision has not been made by the county department within a reasonable time. The State Department may make such additional investigation as it may deem necessary, and shall make such decision as to the granting of assistance and the amount of assistance to be granted the applicant as its opinion is justified and in conformity with the provisions of this Act. Applicant or recipients affected by such decisions of the State Department shall, upon request, be given reasonable notice and opportunity for a fair hearing by the State Department.

All decisions of the State Department shall be final and shall be binding upon the county involved and shall be complied with by the county department.

Section 14.

Periodic Reconsideration and Changes in Amount of Assistance. All assistance grants made under this Act shall be reconsidered by the county department as frequently as may be required by the rules of the State Department.

After such further investigation as the county department may deem necessary or the State Department may require, the amount of assistance may be changed or assistance may be entirely withdrawn if the State or county departments find that the recipient's circumstances have altered sufficiently to warrant such action.

Section 15.

Re-Examination as to Eyesight. A recipient shall submit to a re-examination as to his eyesight when required to do so by the county or the State Department. He shall also furnish any information required by the county department or by the State Department.

Section 16.

Expenses for Treatment. Supplementary services may be provided by the county department to any applicant or recipient who is in need of treatment either to prevent blindness or to restore his eyesight whether or not he is blind as defined in Section 2 of this Act if he is otherwise qualified for assistance under this Act. The supplementary services may include necessary travelling and other expenses to receive treatment from a hospital or clinic designated by the State Department. The county department shall be reimbursed by the State Department for 90 per cent of such expenditures.

Section 17.

Recovery from a Recipient. If at any time during the continuance of assistance the recipient thereof becomes possessed of any property or income in excess of the amount stated in the application provided for in Section 7 of this Act, it shall be the duty of the recipient immediately to notify the county department of the receipt or possession of such property or income and the county department may, after investigation, either cancel the assistance or alter the amount thereof in accordance with the circumstances. Any assistance paid after the recipi-

ent has come into possession of such property or income and in excess of his need shall be recoverable by the county as a debt due to the State and the county in proportion to the amount of assistance paid by each respectively.

Section 18.

Recovery from the Estate. On the death of any recipient, the total amount of assistance paid under this Act shall be allowed as a claim against the estate of such person after funeral expenses not to exceed \$75.00 have been paid and after the expense of administering the estate has been paid. No claim shall be enforced against any real estate of a recipient while it is occupied by the surviving spouse, or dependent. Provided, however, this section shall not apply to a Confederate Veteran or his widow who may now be drawing a pension or who may herein-after be entitled to draw a pension.

The Federal Government shall be entitled to a share of any amounts collected from recipients or from their estates equal to not more than one-half of the amount collected, if required as a condition to Federal financial participation, and this amount shall be specified by the State Department. The amount due the United States shall be paid promptly by the State to the United States Government.

Section 19.

Removal to Another County. Any recipient who moves to another county in this State shall be entitled with the approval of the State Department to receive assistance in the county to which he has moved and the county department of the county from which he has moved shall transfer all necessary records relating to the recipient to the county department of the county in which he has moved. The county from which the recipient moves shall pay the assistance for a period of two months.

Section 20.

Financial Procedures. The County Commissioner or Board of Commissioners or the Consti-

tuted Fiscal or Financial Agent of the County in each county in the State shall appropriate annually a sufficient sum up to 10 per cent of the cost of the administration in each respective county and the cost of paying the assistance and the benefits provided for under terms of this Act, which said fund shall be paid to the county department of public welfare upon requisition by the Director thereof. Provided, however, the county taxing authority is in no sense delegated to the Welfare Boards herein created, and the 10% required of each county shall not exceed the amount of taxes of revenues available in such county for such purpose. The county department shall keep such records and accounts in relation to assistance under this Act as the State Department shall prescribe. The State Department shall reimburse each county or district public welfare department to the extent of 90 per cent of the amount expended for assistance and for administration pursuant to the provisions of this Act, provided that such State Department shall cooperate with the Federal Social Security Board in obtaining for the purposes of administering the benefits of this Act, the Federal aid as provided for in the Federal Social Security Act. The Legislature is hereby authorized and empowered to appropriate from the General Fund of the State or otherwise, except funds specifically allocated by law for other purposes, a sufficient amount of money to provide for the administration of and the payment of the assistance and other benefits enumerated and provided for under the terms of this Act after taking into consideration the Federal Aid which is provided for by the Federal Social Security Act and the 10 per cent of such total amounts necessary for the above purposes which shall, under the terms of this Act, be paid for by the respective counties of the State.

Section 21.

Fraudulent Acts. Whoever knowingly obtains or attempts to obtain, or aid or abets any per-

son to obtain by means of a wilfully false statement or representative or by impersonation, or other fraudulent device, assistance to which he is not entitled, assistance greater than that to which he is justly entitled; or whoever aids or abets in buying or in any way disposing of the property, either personal or real, of a recipient of assistance without the consent of the county department, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction thereof shall be fined not more than \$300.00 or be imprisoned for not more than twelve months, or be both fined and imprisoned in the discretion of the Court. In assessing the penalty the court shall take into consideration, among other factors, the amount of money fraudulently received.

Section 22.

Limitation of Act. All assistance granted under this Act shall be deemed to be granted and to be held subject to the provisions of any amending or repealing Act that may hereafter be passed, and no recipient shall have any claim for compensation, or otherwise, by reason of his

assistance being affected in any way by any amending or repealing Act.

Section 23.

Short Title. This Act may be cited as the "Aid to the Blind Act."

Section 24.

Effective Date. This Act shall take effect upon approval by the Governor of the State and upon adequate appropriations for the expenditures to be made as are provided for herein.

Section 25.

Repeal of Existing Laws. All provisions of law in conflict with this Act are hereby repealed.

Section 26.

Separability Clause. If any provision of this Act, or the application thereof to any person or circumstance, is held invalid, the remainder of the Act, and the application of such provision to other persons or circumstances shall not be affected thereby.

TABLE 1
LOCATION OF WHITE AND COLORED MALE AND FEMALE BLIND PERSONS
GEORGIA - 1938

County	Total White & Colored	White		Colored		County	Total White & Colored	White		Colored				
		Total	Males Females	Total	Males Females			Total	Males Females	Total	Males Females			
Appling	23	16	6	10	7 5	2	Jefferson	40	22	11	11	18	6	12
Atkinson	16	8	5	3	8 5	3	Jenkins	34	21	12	9	13	6	7
Bacon	16	13	6	7	3 2	1	Johnson	57	41	19	22	16	11	5
Baker	51	24	17	7	27 12	15	Jones	34	18	12	6	16	6	10
Baldwin	36	7	3	4	29 18	11	Lamar	51	19	10	9	32	14	18
Banks	34	30	18	12	4 4	-	Lanier	5	3	1	2	2	2	-
Barrow	22	19	6	13	3 2	1	Laurens	72	41	21	21	31	17	14
Bartow	70	54	25	29	16 12	4	Lee	21	3	1	2	18	7	11
Ben Hill	40	25	13	12	15 11	4	Liberty	51	14	8	6	37	24	13
Berrien	79	73	40	33	6 4	2	Lincoln	29	11	5	6	18	12	6
Bibb	370	189	93	96	181 79	102	Long	23	12	8	4	11	5	3
Bleckley	37	27	6	21	10 6	4	Lowndes	51	24	18	6	27	16	11
Brantley	18	16	11	5	2 1	1	Lumpkin	41	41	24	17	-	-	-
Brooks	46	15	6	9	31 10	21	McDuffie	37	17	13	4	20	11	9
Bryan	32	18	11	7	14 9	5	McIntosh	23	5	5	-	18	8	10
Bulloch	40	26	14	12	14 10	4	Macon	37	18	5	13	19	8	11
Burke	43	5	4	1	38 15	23	Madison	11	8	4	4	3	1	2
Butts	25	9	3	6	16 7	9	Marion	9	1	1	-	8	4	4
Calhoun	30	18	9	9	12 7	5	Meriwether	39	24	17	7	15	9	6
Camden	8	5	2	3	3 2	1	Miller	73	63	37	26	10	6	4
Candler	31	29	22	7	2 2	-	Mitchell	55	30	14	16	25	14	11
Carroll	40	34	24	10	6 1	5	Monroe	106	35	22	13	71	28	43
Catoosa	17	17	10	7	- -	-	Montgomery	15	5	2	3	10	6	4
Charlton	21	19	9	10	2 2	-	Morgan	74	30	14	16	44	18	26
Chatham	322	123	71	52	199 97	102	Murray	43	40	29	11	3	3	-
Chattahoochee	7	3	2	1	4 2	2	Muscogee	155	105	52	53	50	25	25
Chattooga	45	35	19	16	10 3	7	Newton	25	8	5	3	17	8	9
Cherokee	62	60	35	25	2 1	1	Oconee	46	33	18	15	13	5	8
Clarke	64	30	9	21	34 18	16	Oglethorpe	39	22	11	11	17	11	6
Clay	21	4	1	3	17 4	13	Paulding	43	38	23	15	5	4	1
Clayton	20	14	9	5	6 4	2	Peach	34	12	3	9	22	10	12
Clinch	11	4	2	2	7 4	3	Pickens	26	24	9	15	2	-	2
Cobb	62	40	23	17	22 11	11	Pierce	25	20	12	8	5	4	1
Coffee	55	42	24	18	13 7	6	Pike	24	13	7	6	11	9	2
Colquitt	32	25	14	11	7 6	1	Polk	25	18	11	7	7	4	3
Columbia	14	4	1	3	10 5	5	Pulaski	97	32	25	7	65	44	21
Cook	42	28	12	16	14 8	6	Putnam	48	15	10	5	33	21	12
Coweta	77	35	20	15	42 22	20	Quitman	15	8	7	1	7	4	3
Crawford	9	3	2	1	6 4	2	Rabun	21	20	8	12	1	-	1
Crisp	47	30	15	15	17 12	5	Randolph	25	5	1	4	20	10	10
Dade	17	17	10	7	- -	-	Richmond	258	146	68	78	112	56	56
Dawson	40	40	21	19	- -	-	Rockdale	32	21	6	15	11	4	7
Decatur	53	29	15	14	24 16	8	Schley	15	6	2	4	9	5	4
DeKalb	95	71	35	36	24 14	10	Screven	27	7	6	1	20	13	7
Dodge	82	55	28	27	27 12	15	Seminole	38	27	18	9	11	7	4
Dooly	51	22	15	7	29 18	11	Spalding	141	75	38	37	66	31	35
Dougherty	61	15	10	5	46 20	26	Stephens	29	22	12	10	7	4	3
Douglas	16	14	11	3	2 2	-	Stewart	42	21	11	10	21	16	5
Early	60	47	28	19	13 7	6	Sumter	35	15	6	9	20	8	12
Echols	8	7	7	-	1 1	-	Talbot	34	16	5	11	18	6	12
Effingham	48	22	12	10	26 12	14	Taliaferro	37	12	6	6	25	9	16
Elbert	61	40	19	21	21 11	10	Tattall	21	12	6	3	9	6	3
Emanuel	55	37	18	19	18 12	6	Taylor	19	9	6	3	10	3	7
Evans	33	13	7	6	20 11	9	Telfair	58	47	31	16	11	7	4
Fannin	26	26	15	11	- -	-	Terrell	29	6	4	2	23	17	6
Fayette	25	16	10	6	9 6	3	Thomas	49	21	12	9	28	13	15
Floyd	91	68	43	25	23 13	10	Tift	17	16	9	7	1	-	1
Forsyth	54	54	27	27	- -	-	Toombs	65	44	19	25	21	9	12
Franklin	54	44	20	24	10 5	5	Towns	18	18	6	12	-	-	-
Fulton	997	637	331	306	360 187	173	Treutlen	37	29	16	13	8	6	2
Gilmer	39	39	17	22	- -	-	Troup	138	72	43	29	66	34	32
Glascocok	33	22	7	15	11 3	8	Turner	30	23	13	10	7	3	4
Glynn	72	20	10	10	52 23	29	Twiggs	23	4	3	1	19	10	9
Gordon	35	34	19	15	1 1	-	Union	17	17	6	11	-	-	-
Grady	51	42	17	25	9 4	5	Upson	13	11	7	4	2	2	-
Greene	84	34	18	16	50 22	28	Walker	65	57	32	25	8	6	2
Gwinnett	51	42	22	20	9 6	3	Walton	58	39	26	13	19	11	8
Habersham	16	16	11	5	- -	-	Ware	98	62	33	29	36	20	16
Hall	44	39	20	19	5 3	2	Warren	34	13	6	7	21	13	8
Hancock	56	19	11	8	37 20	17	Washington	84	45	24	21	39	20	19
Haralson	82	71	40	31	11 5	6	Wayne	22	14	10	4	8	5	3
Harris	26	3	2	1	23 15	8	Webster	11	3	1	2	8	3	5
Hart	38	29	18	11	9 4	5	Wheeler	25	15	7	8	10	5	5
Heard	44	36	17	19	8 6	2	White	21	20	9	11	1	1	-
Henry	41	20	9	11	21 12	9	Whitfield	45	40	26	14	5	3	2
Houston	32	10	5	5	22 14	8	Wilcox	26	15	12	3	11	7	4
Irwin	18	12	7	5	6 4	2	Wilkes	50	34	25	9	16	7	9
Jackson	29	22	15	7	7 4	3	Wilkinson	10	2	-	2	8	4	4
Jasper	14	3	-	3	11 8	3	Worth	44	23	15	8	21	12	9
Jeff Davis	31	21	8	13	10 5	5	TOTAL	8,292	4,982	2,680	2,302	3,310	1,727	1,583

TABLE 2
URBAN AND RURAL DISTRIBUTION OF BLIND PERSONS
BY AGE GROUPS
GEORGIA - 1938

Age Groups by Years	T o t a l			U r b a n*			R u r a l**		
	Total	White	Colored	Total	White	Colored	Total	White	Colored
Under 5 Yrs.	53	39	14	9	8	1	44	31	13
5 to 9	177	135	42	34	29	5	143	106	37
10 to 14	315	232	83	66	52	14	249	180	69
15 to 19	347	256	91	90	60	30	257	196	61
20 to 21	98	67	31	27	17	10	71	50	21
22 to 24	200	127	73	59	37	22	141	90	51
25 to 29	287	179	108	85	52	33	202	127	75
30 to 34	282	168	114	104	53	51	178	115	63
35 to 44	720	411	309	219	108	111	501	303	198
45 to 54	944	528	416	301	155	146	643	373	270
55 to 64	1,175	767	408	332	214	118	843	553	290
65 to 74	1,983	1,036	947	489	258	231	1,494	778	716
75 & Over	1,708	1,035	673	382	228	154	1,326	807	519
Unknown	3	2	1	-	-	-	3	2	1
TOTAL	8,292	4,982	3,310	2,197	1,271	926	6,095	3,711	2,384

* Includes Bibb, Chatham, DeKalb, Fulton, Muscogee and Richmond Counties.

** Includes all other counties.

TABLE 3
ANALYSIS OF BLIND PERSONS BY AGE GROUPS
GEORGIA - 1938

Age Groups by Years	Population (1930)	Number of Blind Persons	Rate Per 1,000 Population
Under 5 Yrs.	316,404	53	.03
5 to 9	353,910	177	.05
10 to 14	338,860	315	.09
15 to 19	334,836	347	1.04
20 to 24	288,126	298	1.03
25 to 29	222,930	287	1.28
30 to 34	183,399	282	1.53
35 to 44	338,115	720	2.13
45 to 54	264,609	944	3.57
55 to 64	152,195	1,175	7.72
65 to 74	78,880	1,983	25.14
75 & Over	34,398	1,708	49.71
Unknown	1,844	3	1.63
TOTAL	2,908,506	8,292	2.90

TABLE 4
DEGREE OF REPORTED BLINDNESS BY AGE GROUPS
GEORGIA - 1938

Age Groups by Years	Total	Totally Blind	Partially Blind
Under 5 Yrs.	53	28	25
5 to 9	177	64	113
10 to 14	315	100	215
15 to 19	347	136	211
20 to 21	98	44	54
21 to 24	200	98	102
25 to 29	287	143	144
30 to 34	282	162	120
35 to 44	720	395	325
45 to 54	944	496	448
55 to 64	1,175	568	607
65 to 74	1,983	868	1,115
75 & Over	1,708	849	859
Unknown	3	1	2
TOTAL	8,292	3,952	4,340

TABLE 5
GEORGIA SURVEY OF THE BLIND SOURCE OF SUPPORT - BY AGE AND RACE

Age Groups	W h i t e									C o l o r e d								
	Total White & Colored	Total	Own Earn- ings	Rela- tives	Other	Own & Rela- tives	Own & Other	Rela- tives & Other	All Three	Total	Own Earn- ings	Rela- tives	Other	Own & Rela- tives	Own & Other	Rela- tives & Other	All Three	
Under 5 Yrs.	53	39	-	36	1	-	-	2	-	14	-	14	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 to 9	177	135	-	118	5	-	-	12	-	42	-	39	3	-	-	-	-	-
10 to 14	315	232	1	194	7	-	-	30	-	83	-	81	1	-	-	1	-	-
15 to 19	347	256	16	175	8	9	-	48	-	91	2	82	2	2	-	3	-	-
20 to 21	98	67	15	41	-	8	-	3	-	31	3	26	1	-	-	1	-	-
22 to 24	200	127	27	55	16	10	3	14	2	73	10	41	3	13	-	6	-	-
25 to 29	287	179	45	75	15	5	8	29	2	108	18	46	24	2	3	14	1	-
30 to 34	282	168	49	58	27	7	8	19	-	114	14	39	39	3	7	12	-	-
35 to 44	720	411	114	149	73	10	17	47	1	309	47	105	101	9	11	36	-	-
45 to 54	944	528	132	186	109	17	29	53	2	416	66	147	140	9	12	42	-	-
55 to 64	1,175	767	174	323	139	20	24	84	3	408	47	146	137	12	23	41	-	-
65 to 74	1,983	1,036	169	367	276	23	30	149	2	947	91	314	360	26	30	125	1	-
75 & Over	1,708	1,035	122	409	322	14	20	148	-	673	23	249	275	6	7	113	-	-
Unknown	3	2	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	8,292	4,982	865	2,207	998	123	139	638	12	3,510	521	1,332	1,086	82	93	394	2	-

TABLE 6
URBAN AND RURAL BLIND PERSONS REPORTING A DIAGNOSIS - BY RACE, SEX, AND AGE GROUP
GEORGIA - 1938

Age Group		Total White and Colored	Persons Reporting A Diagnosis						Persons Not Reporting A Diagnosis					
			White			Colored			White			Colored		
			Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Urban	Under 5 Yrs.	9	3	2	1	-	-	-	5	3	2	1	1	-
	5 to 9	34	14	9	5	-	-	-	16	10	5	5	5	-
	10 to 14	66	35	23	12	3	1	2	17	11	6	11	4	7
	15 to 19	90	32	20	12	13	10	3	28	16	12	17	9	8
	20 to 21	27	9	6	3	3	2	1	8	6	2	7	5	2
	22 to 24	59	25	17	8	7	3	4	12	9	3	15	7	8
	25 to 29	85	33	22	11	10	4	6	19	11	8	23	11	12
	30 to 34	104	29	20	9	29	15	14	24	13	11	22	10	12
	35 to 44	219	64	35	29	54	37	17	44	26	18	57	29	20
	45 to 54	301	104	67	37	64	43	21	51	26	25	82	30	52
	55 to 64	332	119	57	62	39	22	17	95	46	47	79	40	39
	65 to 74	469	157	67	90	67	36	31	101	44	57	164	68	96
	75 & Over	362	97	31	66	32	10	22	131	51	80	122	56	66
Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Total		2,197	721	376	345	321	183	139	550	274	276	605	275	330
Rural	Under 5 Yrs.	44	7	3	4	2	1	1	24	19	5	11	4	7
	5 to 9	143	23	7	16	7	4	3	83	45	38	30	17	13
	10 to 14	249	75	55	20	15	7	8	105	59	46	54	30	24
	15 to 19	257	80	43	37	13	6	7	116	71	45	48	21	27
	20 to 21	71	25	17	8	6	3	3	25	18	7	15	7	8
	22 to 24	141	41	27	14	23	10	13	49	30	19	28	15	13
	25 to 29	202	65	45	20	30	19	11	62	31	31	45	21	24
	35 to 44	501	153	89	64	117	73	44	150	69	81	81	43	38
	45 to 54	645	179	120	59	150	97	53	194	64	110	120	56	64
	55 to 64	643	277	165	112	155	105	50	276	146	130	135	64	71
	65 to 74	1,494	259	153	106	219	120	99	519	283	236	497	259	238
	75 & Over	1,326	192	92	100	84	39	45	615	268	327	435	202	233
	Unknown	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	1	1	1	-
Total		6,095	1,440	855	585	866	517	349	2,271	1,175	1,096	1,518	752	766
GRAND TOTAL		8,292	2,161	1,231	930	1,187	700	487	2,821	1,449	1,372	2,123	1,027	1,096

TABLE 7
OCCUPATION OF BLIND PERSONS - BY RACE AND SEX*

GEORGIA - 1938

Occupation	Total White & Colored	R a c e					
		W h i t e			C o l o r e d		
		Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Professional & Technical							
Auditor	1	1	1	-	-	-	-
Composer	1	1	1	-	-	-	-
Coroner	2	2	2	-	-	-	-
Judge	4	4	4	-	-	-	-
Lawyer	4	4	4	-	-	-	-
Librarian	1	1	-	1	-	-	-
Marshall	1	1	1	-	-	-	-
Minister	15	10	10	-	5	5	-
Musician	31	16	14	2	15	13	2
Newspaper Work	1	1	-	1	-	-	-
Nurse	4	-	-	-	4	-	4
Public Service Commission	1	1	1	-	-	-	-
Tax Collector	1	1	1	-	-	-	-
Tax Receiver	1	1	1	-	-	-	-
Teacher	27	19	11	8	8	7	1
Undertaker	1	-	-	-	1	1	-
Proprietors, Managers & Officials							
Boarding House Proprietor	1	-	-	-	1	-	1
Dog Kennel Operator	1	1	-	1	-	-	-
Drug Store Operator	1	1	1	-	-	-	-
Filling Station Operator	4	4	4	-	-	-	-
Laundry Superintendent	1	1	1	-	-	-	-
Loan Business	1	1	1	-	-	-	-
Lunch Stand Operator	3	3	3	-	-	-	-
Merchant	29	29	29	-	-	-	-
Proprietor	24	24	-	24	-	-	-
Real Estate	2	2	2	-	-	-	-
Rooming House Proprietor	1	1	1	-	-	-	-
Store Manager	6	6	6	-	-	-	-
Swimming Pool Operator	1	1	1	-	-	-	-
Theatre Owner	1	1	1	-	-	-	-
Vendor	42	8	8	-	34	34	-
Office Workers							
Clerical Worker	18	18	17	1	-	-	-
Clerk	8	8	4	4	-	-	-
Postal Service	2	2	2	-	-	-	-
Salesmen & Kindred Workers							
Agents	2	2	2	-	-	-	-
Collectors	3	3	1	2	-	-	-
Insurance	1	1	1	-	-	-	-
Salesmen	31	31	31	-	-	-	-
Skilled Workers & Foremen							
Contractors	3	3	3	-	-	-	-
Electricians	2	2	2	-	-	-	-
Painter	1	1	1	-	-	-	-
Piano Tuning	10	10	10	-	-	-	-
Plumbers	3	3	3	-	-	-	-

TABLE 7 CONT'D.
OCCUPATION OF BLIND PERSONS - BY RACE AND SEX*
GEORGIA - 1938

Occupation	Total White & Colored	R a c e					
		W h i t e			C o l o r e d		
		Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Skilled Workers & Foremen - Manufacturing							
Carpenter	12	10	10	-	2	2	-
Machinist	5	5	5	-	-	-	-
Mattress Making	5	5	5	-	-	-	-
Miller	1	1	1	-	-	-	-
Semi-skilled Workers - Manufacturing							
Basketry	4	-	-	-	4	4	-
Broom Making	20	17	16	1	3	3	-
Chair Caning	4	1	1	-	3	3	-
Custodian	1	1	1	-	-	-	-
Laundry Worker	29	4	-	4	25	-	25
Needlecraft	1	1	-	1	-	-	-
Night Watchman	2	2	2	-	-	-	-
Pressing Club	3	-	-	-	3	3	-
Repair Shop Miscellaneous	1	1	1	-	-	-	-
Seamstress	6	5	-	5	1	-	1
Shoe Repairing	1	1	1	-	-	-	-
Switchman	1	1	1	-	-	-	-
Textile Worker	8	8	8	-	-	-	-
Transfer	1	1	1	-	-	-	-
Unskilled Laborers							
Laborers - General	169	75	73	2	94	88	6
Odd Jobs	14	14	14	-	-	-	-
Porter	7	-	-	-	7	7	-
Rail Road Worker	4	4	4	-	-	-	-
Seaman	1	1	1	-	-	-	-
Turpentine Workers	3	3	3	-	-	-	-
Domestic & Personal Service							
Beautician	4	4	-	4	-	-	-
Cooks	8	1	-	1	7	-	7
Companion	1	1	-	1	-	-	-
Domestic	12	1	-	1	11	11	-
House Work	487	378	1	377	109	-	109
House Laundry	15	-	-	-	15	-	15
Maid	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
Waitress	1	1	-	1	-	-	-
Farm Laborers - Operators							
Dairy Farming	2	2	1	1	-	-	-
Farming - General	579	417	367	50	162	134	28
Poultry Farming	3	3	1	2	-	-	-
Miscellaneous							
Begging	30	5	2	3	25	21	4
Florist	2	1	1	1	-	-	-
Messenger	1	1	1	-	-	-	-
Peddlers	14	12	12	-	2	-	2
Students	153	125	75	50	28	14	14
Superintendent	2	2	2	-	-	-	-
None	6,377	3,637	1,883	1,754	2,740	1,377	1,363
TOTAL	8,292	4,982	2,680	2,302	3,310	1,727	1,583

* Includes Totally and Partially Blind Persons.

TABLE 8
MARITAL STATUS OF BLIND PERSONS - BY AGE GROUPS AND RACE

GEORGIA - 1938													
Age Groups	Total	W h i t e						C o l o r e d					
	White & Colored	Total	Single	Married	Divorced	Widowed	Separated	Total	Single	Married	Divorced	Widowed	Separated
Under 5 Yrs.	53	39	39	-	-	-	-	14	14	-	-	-	-
5 to 9	177	135	135	-	-	-	-	42	42	-	-	-	-
10 to 14	315	232	232	-	-	-	-	83	83	-	-	-	-
15 to 19	347	256	250	5	-	-	1	91	87	4	-	-	-
20 to 21	98	67	60	5	-	1	1	31	23	3	1	-	4
22 to 24	200	127	100	25	1	-	1	73	54	11	1	4	3
25 to 29	287	179	111	60	1	2	5	108	67	29	-	4	8
30 to 34	282	167	81	76	3	1	7	114	43	39	-	16	16
35 to 44	720	411	135	234	5	22	15	309	88	117	3	50	51
45 to 54	944	528	107	317	12	73	19	416	70	192	4	102	48
55 to 64	1,175	767	111	460	9	171	16	408	32	193	6	141	36
65 to 74	1,983	1,036	87	538	7	386	18	947	55	363	5	473	51
75 & Over	1,708	1,035	66	332	3	628	6	673	24	174	6	447	22
Unknown	3	2	1	-	-	1	-	1	-	1	-	-	-
TOTAL	8,292	4,982	1,515	2,052	41	1,285	89	3,310	682	1,126	26	1,237	239

TABLE 9
EDUCATION OF BLIND PERSONS - BY RACE AND AGE GROUPS

Race	Age Group	Total	Grade Completed												College	Special Voca- tional Training	School For Blind	School For Seeing	Attended Both
			None	First	Second	Third	Fourth	Fifth	Sixth	Seventh	Eighth	Ninth	Tenth	Eleventh					
White	Under 5 Yrs.	39	39	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	5 to 9	135	72	33	15	11	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	9	53	1
	10 to 14	232	36	25	21	45	33	29	21	15	6	-	-	-	1	23	38	153	5
	15 to 19	256	31	8	15	14	22	30	30	28	30	16	16	13	3	60	65	150	10
	20 to 21	67	9	1	6	1	4	5	5	3	5	3	9	15	1	18	19	34	5
	21 to 24	127	24	1	8	7	9	9	10	9	11	8	10	17	4	33	28	66	9
	25 to 29	179	33	8	8	10	12	14	10	20	15	11	13	17	8	31	42	95	9
	30 to 34	168	32	7	6	17	8	8	12	17	14	13	14	13	7	35	22	100	14
	35 to 44	411	51	16	20	34	30	44	41	56	35	19	21	30	14	62	49	298	13
	45 to 54	520	60	14	20	46	79	65	48	62	30	27	14	30	25	56	34	417	17
	55 to 64	767	90	23	41	59	116	93	54	96	60	29	30	51	25	67	27	640	10
	65 to 74	1,036	145	43	66	121	129	114	101	97	71	25	31	55	38	66	8	875	8
	75 & Over	1,035	138	60	77	122	145	110	64	112	65	19	31	52	40	40	4	886	7
	Unknown	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-
Total		4,982	761	239	311	487	590	522	396	515	342	171	189	293	166	505	345	3,768	108
Colored	Under 5 Yrs.	14	14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	5 to 9	42	29	8	3	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	4	9	-
	10 to 14	83	25	12	10	14	11	7	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	11	15	42	1
	15 to 19	91	13	9	17	9	10	9	6	7	3	2	2	4	-	12	16	56	6
	20 to 21	31	7	5	1	1	3	2	3	5	2	1	-	1	-	2	3	20	1
	22 to 24	73	28	3	4	11	7	4	3	4	3	3	-	-	3	9	15	30	-
	25 to 29	108	30	4	9	15	13	10	8	8	3	1	2	5	-	16	15	60	3
	30 to 34	114	28	7	10	15	16	13	8	4	4	2	1	4	2	12	8	75	3
	35 to 44	309	73	21	27	47	44	15	26	21	17	3	4	9	2	28	14	213	9
	45 to 54	416	83	31	42	67	60	40	33	16	21	7	3	7	6	25	7	317	9
	55 to 64	408	109	29	40	59	43	51	29	7	17	11	5	5	3	11	2	294	3
	65 to 74	947	248	102	105	117	110	60	40	19	19	7	6	9	5	19	-	597	2
	75 & Over	673	418	75	59	43	34	78	7	3	4	4	1	7	-	4	-	254	1
	Unknown	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total		3,310	1,206	306	327	400	351	229	164	97	93	41	24	51	21	151	99	1,967	38
GRAND TOTAL		8,292	1,967	545	638	887	941	751	560	612	435	212	213	344	187	656	444	5,735	146

TABLE 10

TYPE OF WORK OR TRAINING BLIND PERSONS WOULD LIKE TO FOLLOW
BY RACE AND SEX OF BLIND PERSONS

GEORGIA - 1938

Type of Work or Training	Total White & Colored	R a c e					
		W h i t e			C o l o r e d		
		Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
None	3,049	1,843	834	1,009	1,206	558	648
No Choice	2,488	2,234	1,310	924	1,254	617	637
Basketry	102	-	-	-	102	20	82
Broom Making	100	26	25	1	74	69	5
Chair Caning	120	6	5	1	114	98	16
Domestic	198	198	-	198	-	-	-
Farming	703	376	343	33	327	237	90
Handicraft	93	17	4	13	76	43	33
Mattress Making	22	15	15	-	7	7	-
Music	209	116	70	46	93	53	40
Music Teacher	22	22	11	11	-	-	-
Needle Work	25	25	-	25	-	-	-
Piano Tuning	14	14	14	-	-	-	-
Poultry Raising	22	18	14	4	4	4	-
Rug Making	37	11	-	11	26	2	24
Singer	7	7	2	5	-	-	-
Vocational Training	70	43	27	18	27	19	8
Weaving	6	6	6	-	-	-	-
Writer	5	5	2	3	-	-	-
TOTAL	8,292	4,982	2,680	2,302	3,310	1,727	1,583

TABLE 11

AGE WHEN BLINDNESS OCCURRED
BY RACE AND SEX

GEORGIA - 1938

Age When Blindness Occurred	Total White & Colored	R a c e					
		W h i t e			C o l o r e d		
		Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Born Blind	873	674	387	287	199	109	90
Under 5 Yrs.	412	303	188	115	109	52	57
5 to 9	340	238	144	94	102	58	44
10 to 14	299	205	115	90	94	47	47
15 to 19	228	127	63	64	101	55	46
20 to 24	286	130	82	48	156	96	60
25 to 29	286	154	84	70	132	79	53
30 to 34	375	196	96	100	179	104	75
35 to 44	847	471	206	265	376	219	157
45 to 54	940	539	250	289	401	221	180
55 to 64	1,372	609	475	334	563	286	277
65 to 74	1,273	714	368	346	559	259	300
75 & Over	730	403	213	195	322	134	188
Unknown	31	14	9	5	17	8	9
TOTAL	8,292	4,982	2,680	2,302	3,310	1,727	1,583

TABLE 12

PRESENT OCCUPATION OF BLIND PERSONS
BY LAST OCCUPATION

GEORGIA - 1938

Past Occupation	Total	None	Professional and Technical	Proprietors, Managers and Officials	Office Workers	Salesmen and Kindred Workers	Skilled Workers and Foremen	Skilled Workers and Foremen - Manufacturing	Semi-skilled Workers - Manufacturing	Unskilled Laborers	Domestic and Personal Service	Farm Laborers and Operators	Miscellaneous
Professional and Technical	125	91	19	3	-	-	-	-	1	3	6	2	-
Proprietors, Managers and Officials	115	75	-	25	1	2	-	-	-	-	4	5	3
Office Workers	96	69	1	1	6	4	-	-	1	-	11	2	1
Salesmen and Kindred Workers	73	51	1	4	1	9	-	1	2	1	-	2	1
Skilled Workers and Foremen	143	108	3	1	-	-	3	2	8	9	-	7	2
Skilled Workers and Foremen - Manufacturing	209	158	-	9	3	2	1	9	1	9	-	13	4
Semi-skilled Workers - Manufacturing	429	335	4	9	-	1	1	-	13	14	30	8	6
Unskilled Laborers	729	576	4	18	2	3	-	4	2	59	10	35	14
Domestic and Personal Service	2,039	1,652	4	5	1	-	-	-	29	9	329	7	3
Farm Laborers and Operators	2,368	1,787	4	12	3	4	-	1	8	58	60	443	8
Miscellaneous	131	89	6	4	2	-	2	-	-	6	10	6	6
None	1,817	1,386	49	27	10	12	12	6	17	30	61	54	153
TOTAL	8,292	6,377	95	118	29	37	19	23	82	198	529	564	201

TABLE 13
DOCTOR'S DIAGNOSIS OF BLIND PERSONS
GEORGIA - 1938

Doctor's Diagnosis	Reported By Blind Persons			Doctor's Diagnosis	Reported By Blind Persons		
	Total	Totally Blind	Partially Blind		Total	Totally Blind	Partially Blind
Arteriosclerosis	12	4	8	Ophthalmia	37	34	3
Bupthalmos	1	1	-	Optic Nerves			
Cancer	2	1	1	Atrophy	303	241	62
Cataract	720	363	357	Consec. Atrophy	13	9	4
Choroiditis	65	47	18	Colombomatal	2	2	-
Congenital	75	33	42	Panophthalmitis	97	65	32
Conjunctivitis	33	19	14	Paralysis	31	15	16
Corneal Opacities	123	99	24	Phthisis Bulbi	47	42	5
Enophthalmia	2	2	-	Pterygium	2	-	2
Enucleation	40	29	11	Synechia	1	1	-
Glaucoma	207	164	43	Presbyopia	3	1	2
Hydrophthalmos	3	2	1	Retinitis	62	46	16
Iridocyclitis	87	62	25	Staphyloma	9	9	-
Microphthalmos	2	2	1	Traumatic	161	103	58
Myopia	30	13	17	Not Ascertainable	1,166	549	617
Nystagmus	12	6	6	TOTAL	3,348	1,964	1,384

TABLE 14
ABILITY TO READ BY TYPE OF SCHOOL ATTENDED
GEORGIA - 1938

	Total	None	Attended School		
			For the Blind	For the Seeing	Attended Both
Able to Read Raised Type	585	-	411	44	130
Unable to Read Raised Type	7,707	1,967	33	5,691	16
TOTAL	8,292	1,967	444	5,735	146

TABLE 15
BLIND PERSONS WITH OTHER HANDICAPS - BY RACE AND SEX
GEORGIA - 1938

Other Handicaps	Total	R A C E					
		W h i t e		C o l o r e d			
		Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Blind Only	6,866	4,116	2,224	1,892	2,750	1,478	1,272
Deaf	337	227	130	97	110	57	53
Dumb	7	3	2	1	4	3	1
Deaf & Dumb	22	10	4	6	12	6	6
Crippled	849	497	256	241	352	153	199
Deaf & Crippled	48	33	13	20	15	7	8
Dumb & Crippled	4	1	-	1	3	2	1
Deaf, Dumb and Crippled	2	2	-	2	-	-	-
Mental & Deaf	138	76	40	36	62	21	41
Mental, Deaf and Crippled	16	14	9	5	2	-	2
Deaf, Dumb and Mental Deaf	3	3	2	1	-	-	-
TOTAL	8,292	4,982	2,680	2,302	3,310	1,727	1,583

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HF GROUP - IN

